THE

FIRST REPORT

OF THE

DEPUTY KEEPER

OF THE

PUBLIC RECORDS IN IRELAND.

[12TH FEBRUARY, 1869.]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

DUBLIN:
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1869.

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THE FIRST REPORT

OF THE

DEPUTY KEEPER OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS

IN IRELAND.

[12*th February*, 1869.]

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE EARL SPENCER, K.G., LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

1. Pursuant to the provisions of the "Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867," I have the honor, under the direction of the Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls, to report to your Excellency the proceedings had in the execution of the Act in the years 1867–8. 30 & 31 Vic. c. 70.

2. The Public Records of Ireland being in the keeping of several persons, and many of them in unfit buildings, it was deemed expedient to establish one Office and a better Custody, and to allow the free use of the Records as far as might be consistent with their safety and with the public policy of the Realm; and a large and commodious Building having been erected here for the purpose of serving as a Public Record Office, the "Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867," in this Report hereafter referred to as "the Act," was passed, and received the royal assent on the 12th August, 1867. 30 & 31 Vic. c. 70, Preamble.

3. It is, by the fourth section of the Act, provided that all the Records which shall be of the age of twenty years from the making thereof, of the Courts of Chancery, Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, Exchequer, Probate and Admiralty Courts, and of the former Court of Prerogative, and also all the Records, Maps, Books, and Documents deposited at the Custom-house Buildings, Dublin, and also all original Wills of which probate should, on the 12th of August, 1867, have been granted in all Courts and Offices throughout Ireland having testamentary jurisdiction, and all the Bermingham Tower Plea, Pipe, and other Rolls, and the Parliamentary Records, the Records deposited in the State Paper Department, except those which should not be fifty years of age from the making thereof, and all other Records (other than those 30 & 31 Vic. c. 70, s. 4.

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appertaining to the office of Ulster King at Arms) deposited in the Record Tower, Dublin Castle; as also all Records and Documents of any Courts, Commissions, or Public Offices which should have ceased to exist, not comprehended under the foregoing denominations, should, from and after the passing of the Act, be under the charge and superintendence of the Master of the Rolls, and should be removed to this Office; provided that until such removal the several persons having the care of them at the passing of the Act should continue to have the charge of them, subject to such orders as the Master of the Rolls is by the Act empowered to make.

Deputy Keeper appointed.

4. On the 23rd of September, 1867, your Excellency's predecessor was pleased to appoint me to be Deputy Keeper of the Records in Ireland under the Act.

Possession had of Record Building.

Appendix I.

5. On the 19th of November, 1867, the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland delivered up to me for the Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls the above-mentioned building. It stands at the western extremity of the enclosed space at the rere of the Four Courts. No other building approaches, or, save by the Board of Works, can be erected within forty feet of any part of it. It is executed in cut granite; and consists of a convenient Official House in front, adjoining the approach from the quays, and of a very spacious Record Treasury at the rere. The House forms three sides of a hollow square of four stories, enclosing a central apartment of large dimensions, designed for a Public Reading and Search Room, which is lighted from above by a lower internal roof. The basement is vaulted throughout. Surrounding the central apartment there are eight rooms of minor dimensions on each of the three principal stories, making twenty-five apartments in all, for the transaction of the business of the Office.

Record House.

Record Treasury.

6. Externally the Record House and Treasury appear to constitute one block of building of uniform design, but the Treasury, which stands considerably higher than the House, is separated from it by an open area ten feet wide, across which is thrown a covered bridge closed by iron doors at each end, forming the principal means of communication between the two edifices. It is heated by warm water pipes from furnaces in the basement of the Record House, and may be considered effectually isolated as regards any risk of fire from the official part of the Building. Internally it consists of a basement story and of the principal Hall, rising to the full height of the building from the ground floor. The basement is vaulted and divided by partitions into a central corridor, with ten lateral bays on each side. Each of these bays forms an arched apartment twenty-nine feet long, twelve feet wide, and nine feet high. An iron door on the lower level (being the only other aperture in the end next the Record House besides the principal entrance) leads from the intervening area into this part of the Treasury, but is only opened on particular occasions, the access for general purposes being by an internal descent from the Hall above. The Hall or upper part of the Treasury, which is designed to be the principal Record Repository, constitutes a single

Isolated from risk of Fire.

Treasury Basement; twenty Bays.

Treasury Hall; 120 Bays.

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apartment 140 feet long, eighty feet wide, and fifty feet high. It is divided by iron lattice-work partitions into ten vertical sections of fourteen feet in width by thirty feet in depth, on each side. Each of these sections consists of six stories, eight feet high, lighted by what may be regarded as a single window of the full height of the building. An open area or nave, twenty feet in width and lighted by a glass roof, gives access to the bays on each side by a central stair communicating with the several floors by five tiers of galleries. In the original design of the building it is contemplated that each of these principal divisions should be subdivided vertically by a secondary lattice partition, so as to diminish the span of the flooring joists, and afford support to a central block of shelving in addition to the lines of shelving along the sides of the principal partitions in each bay. These joists are of iron, and support perforated iron floors, through which light is admitted from above. Each bay is closed at the end towards the gallery by an iron grating with grated doors, through which light is also admitted from the central area. On the delivery of the building the original design of construction had been carried out through six principal sections on each side, constituting seventy-two bays, which were fitted up for the reception of Records. The fittings consist of iron standards attached to the flooring-joists, with adjustments for supporting and varying the height of the shelving. The shelving is of wood, being the only inflammable material employed in the structure. It is arranged in five tiers, giving 190 spaces or divisions of thirty-two inches wide between standard and standard in each bay, or 14,680 such receptacles in the completed portion of the work.

Detail of construction.

Carried out through seventy-two Bays.

Wooden Shelving.

7. The whole of the Record Treasury in this state of completion was at once available. But the old Rolls Record Room having been allocated for the recently established Court and Offices of the Vice-Chancellor, and there being no other convenient place presently available, the Master of the Rolls directed that a portion of the Record House, consisting of the Public Room and apartments in the western wing, should be permitted to be temporarily used for the Court and Offices of the Vice-Chancellor, pending the removal of the Records from the old Rolls Record Room, and the necessary alterations in that building. In order to render this provisional arrangement as brief as possible, it was desirable that the transfer of the Records should be commenced with the Rolls collection, and my first care was to make arrangements by which the staff of the department, when appointed, should be enabled to proceed without delay in that operation. For this purpose, and with a view to systematize operations generally, there were prepared—

Exclusion from use of part of Record House, until new Court, &c. constructed in old Rolls Record Room.

1st. A printed *Précis* of the contents of the several Record Repositories. Appendix II.

2nd. Sets of lithographed elevations of the shelving along the sides and centre block of one bay of the Record Treasury. Appendix III.

3rd. Drawings of the elevations of the several classes of presses in the Rolls Record Room.

4th. Sets of numbers to be affixed to the presses.

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Appendix IV. 5th. Printed Transfer Books containing columns for the places of the Records by reference to press and shelf in their then repositories; their descriptions, dimensions, and destinations in the Record Treasury.

Appendix V. 6th. Sets of Delivery Sheets, corresponding to the Transfer Books, to accompany the Records on their removal, as checks on their delivery; and when bound in Guard Books to serve as rough Indexes to the contents of each bay.

8. On the 17th of December, 1867, I received from William H. Hardinge, Esq., late Keeper of the Records of the Landed Estates Record Office, the keys of the collection of Records deposited at the Custom House. Eight volumes of Indexes and Repertories were claimed by Mr. Hardinge as private property, and an application was made by him to the Master of the Rolls to recommend their purchase by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, under the 23rd section of the Act. His Honor, after considering the claim, has not thought fit so to recommend; and the volumes remain in the Office. Pending the removal of the collection the business of the Custom House Branch has been carried on by Mr. Day, Appendix VI. under the former practice and scale of Fees, a table of which will be fouud in the Appendix.

Fire of 20th December, 1867. 9. On the 20th December, 1867, a fire took place in the office of one of the Taxing Masters of the Court of Chancery, which extended to the Record Repositories of the Right Hon. Edward Litton, one of the Masters in Ordinary of that Court, and was not extinguished until the greater portion of the documents in that office was thrown into confusion and a considerable part of them Injured Records removed. damaged and destroyed. With the assistance of the servants of the Board of Works, the Records saved from this accident were transferred to the basement of the Record Treasury and placed on temporary racks to dry.

Establishment for Department. 10. The Establishment for the Department which had for some time been under the consideration of the Lords of the Treasury, was settled in December, 1867, as follows:—

One Deputy Keeper.
One Assistant Deputy Keeper.
One Secretary.
Two First Class Clerks.
Two Second Class Clerks.
Four Third Class Clerks.
One Office Keeper and Messenger.
One Foreman.
Four Workmen.

Appendix VII. Instructions as to the duties to be performed were prepared by the Master of the Rolls, and printed for the use of the Officers, which will be found in the Appendix.

Senior Official Staff constituted 11. On the 1st January, 1868, the senior official staff of the Department was constituted by the following appointments:—

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Assistant Deputy Keeper.

JOHN JAMES D. LA TOUCHE, Esq., A.M., M.R.I.A. (of late Office of Deputy Keeper of the Rolls).

Secretary.

JOHN T. GILBERT, Esq., F.S.A., M.R.I.A. (Librarian of the Royal Irish Academy, Professor of History and Archæology, Royal Hibernian Academy).

First Class Clerks.

ROBERT GODFREY DAY, Esq. (of the late Landed Estates Record Office).
WILLIAM M. HENNESSY, Esq., M.R.I.A. (of the Office of Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums).

Second Class Clerks.

J. O. OVEREND, Esq. (Clerk in Court of Exchequer).
J. LOPDELL, Esq. (Clerk in Court of Common Pleas).

Staff of Record Tower Branch.

12. The Record Tower Branch (Dublin Castle) had previously been constituted by the appointment of—

Sir JOHN BERNARD BURKE, Keeper of the State Papers (12th August, 1867).
G. F. BARRY, Esq., Second Class Clerk (27th November, 1867).
J. J. MAGINN, Esq., Third Class Clerk (27th November, 1867).

Full effective Staff not yet available at Record Office.

13. The continued occupation of part of the Record House for the purposes of the Vice-Chancellor's Court has hitherto prevented the removal of the Custom House collection, and it has been found necessary to place one of the Second Class Clerks, as assistant, with Mr. Day; so that, as yet, the effective Staff of the Department has not been fully available for the discharge of the duties pertaining to the Public Record Office here.

Removal of collections of Masters in Chancery.

14. In consequence of the fire of the 20th December, and the commencement made in the removal of the Records of Master Litton, it was found expedient that the other Record Repositories, as well of Master Brooke as of Master Litton, should be emptied of their contents before proceeding with any other operation. The contents of these Repositories consisted, to a large extent, of Deed-boxes deposited by Suitors during the progress of causes. There were no indexes to the collections, nor any systematic arrangement of the boxes. In order to insure their being accessible in their new destination, a special set of printed Delivery Sheets were prepared, and directions drawn up for a mode of indexing and numbering, the result of which was that each box, before leaving its place of deposit, received a destination in the Record Treasury which insured its being placed there in alphabetical order. The boxes have been placed on racks in the basement, and copies of the Indexes formed from the Delivery Sheets have been deposited with the respective Masters.

Deed-boxes.

App. VIII. Appendix IX.

App. X., XI.

15. By the warrants authorizing the removal of these collections, the Master of the Rolls provided for the retainer and recall by the Masters of such of the Records, Boxes, &c., as might be necessary for the transaction of the current business of their offices. To carry out these provisions, and insure a record of the custody of each box or document so recalled, printed forms, called Recall and Retainer Dockets, have been prepared, by the use of

Appendix XII., XIII.

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which each department can at all times inform itself of the custody of any box or record. Of these boxes there were brought from the Record Rooms of Master Brooke 261; and from the Record Rooms of Master Litton 358.

Collection of Usher of Court of Chancery.

16. Among the boxes brought from the Repositories of Master Litton, was one of large size in which had been contained the various Title-deeds and other instruments formerly in the custody of the Usher of the Court of Chancery. A list of the collection as it existed in 1812 is found at p. 90 of the First Report of the Record Commissioners for Ireland, by which it appears that, at that time, it comprised documents in 347 causes and matters, besides those included in an earlier schedule not now forthcoming.

The box in which it had been deposited being of weak construction, had become broken, and the contents of most of the bundles intermixed, so that the deposits in 276 causes and matters only could be identified. An Index has been formed to the collection under such titles as could be collected from the unbroken parcels, and under the names of the parties in the intermixed deeds, and the collection has been deposited in drawers specially prepared for it. It contains a considerable number of ancient deeds, and some instruments in Irish.

16 Jan., 1868. 17. Mr. Reilly, Clerk of the Records and Writs, having handed me the keys of the Rolls Collection, the Index Books of that office,

18 Feb., 1868. and of the Equity Exchequer Records, were transferred to an apartment in the eastern wing of the Record House, temporarily

Temporary Search Room. fitted up as a Search Room; and the requisite forms of Bespeak Book, Search Docket, and Guard Book having been prepared, and an official Seal procured, the first Fee for a certified copy Record was received on the 26th February, 1868.

App. XIV. 18. The Table of Fees authorized by the Right Hon. the Master of the Rolls, and approved of by the Lords of the Treasury, will be found in the Appendix.

Search Department. 19. The Search Department has since been conducted by Mr. La Touche, assisted by Mr. Hennessy.

Official Staff completed. 20. On the 27th March, 1868, the official staff of the department was completed by the appointment of the following gentlemen as junior clerks, who passed a competitive examination by the Civil Service Commissioners:—

James Mills, Esq.
Henry F. Berry, Esq.
Michael Moloney, Esq.
Thomas M'Ghee, Esq.

Working Staff completed. The working part of the establishment (apart from the office of office-keeper and messenger), which had been partly filled up by previous appointments, was completed on the 6th of April, 1868. It consists of—

Mr. Richard Tucker, Foreman Searcher, Cleaner, and Binder.
Mr. James C. Neil, Ex-Corporal, R.E.
Mr. Wm. Thompson, Ex-Sapper, R.E.
Mr. Robert Dow, Ex-Sapper, R.E.
Mr. Michael Tunny, Ex-Sapper, R.E.

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Arrangement and Deposit of Collection of Master Brooke.

21. The first duties undertaken by the full working staff of the establishment were the sorting and placing in their final repositories of the collections of Masters Brooke and Litton. That portion of the Records from the office of Master Litton saved from the fire, being still too damp for much handling, the final arrangement of those of Master Brooke was first proceeded with. Several modes of arrangement having been observed at different times in this collection, it was deemed more conducive to facility of reference to distribute it into causes, collecting all the Papers and Documents of each cause and matter into one bundle or piece, and giving to each piece a distinct place in dictionary order. The collection has been indexed, and is now deposited in Bay B. It includes the Papers and Documents (save those retained under the proviso in the warrant) in the several causes and matters which had been referred to Masters Brooke, Ball, Westby, Vesey, and their predecessors.

Rolls Collection.

22. During these operations the question of the removal of the Rolls Collection had given rise to much anxious consideration. The fittings which had been provided were such as could readily be adapted to the reception of most other classes of Records, but the Rolls Collection contained a very large quantity of Records of exceptional size, kept in a peculiar manner, and, although sufficiently easy of access, while not disturbed from their existing Repositories, yet difficult of removal, and not possible to be kept in their existing condition on open shelves. These are the Pleadings in Chancery, consisting of large sheets of parchment, which were laid loosely in flat heaps in the shelves of presses, where the backs and sides of the shelves and doors of the presses kept them in their places, and enabled the Searcher to find any Pleading that might be wanted without disturbing the arrangement of the others. The shelves prepared in the new Treasury were open at back, sides, and front; and, owing to the attachment of the iron standards that support them to the flooring joists, are of a uniform width of ope which cannot be varied. The parchments in general extended to such a length as would not fit without contact with the iron of the receptacles, and it was apparent that, when the shelves should be filled, the obstruction of light by the central block would make it extremely difficult to conduct the searches in the usual manner. In the mode itself of making searches, as heretofore practised in the Rolls Office, there were considerable inconveniences. Space was lost by the necessity of leaving room at top of each heap to allow of the upper part being lifted up when a document lower down had to be withdrawn or replaced. Occasionally, the entire heap, weighing in some cases four stones and upwards, had to be taken out at each operation. Of the injurious consequences to the Records themselves, I satisfied myself by personal examination.

Difficulty of dealing with the Pleadings.

Nature of the new Fittings.

Former Mode of Searching.

Modifications suggested in Fittings,

23. The remedy for these inconveniences appeared to consist in some new arrangement by which the Pleadings should be confined in parcels of a manageable size, capable of being lifted from the shelves, or otherwise brought to the light. But there were many

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difficulties in adjusting the existing fittings to any arrangement of this kind; and there being a necessity under any circumstances for completing the unfinished work at the eastern side of the Hall, so far at least as to stay it up where some of the girders carrying the floors had yielded outwards, it was considered better to look to entirely new fittings for this particular class of Records than to attempt their permanent deposit in the existing receptacles.

and in internal construction of Bays.

24. In carrying out such a design it appeared that a modification of the internal arrangements of the bays might be adopted, which, by doubling the depth of the receptacles at each side, might afford equal room for the deposit of Records, and at the same time dispense with the secondary lattice partition and central block of shelving in each bay. There also appeared a prospect of greatly reducing the quantity of wood to be employed, by adopting a system in which each heap of Pleadings might be arranged on a skeleton tray or frame made to slide on light galvanized iron supports, at such vertical distances from one another as would greatly economize the average space required for their reception.

Appendix XV.

25. The principle on which it was proposed to make these modified arrangements having been approved of by the Right Hon. the Master of the Rolls, I, on the 22nd of November, 1867, addressed to His Honor a letter, in which I submitted the expediency of applying to the Commissioners of Public Works to proceed with the internal fittings of the Record Treasury with such modifications as might be approved of by their Architect, and the Deputy Keeper. The Master of the Rolls having communicated on the subject with the Lords of the Treasury, the Commissioners of Public Works, in February, 1868, received the necessary authority to proceed with the completion of the north-eastern sections.

Experimental Fittings.

26. Before entering on so large an undertaking, it was deemed desirable that one bay should be fitted up experimentally, so far as to test the suitableness of the new adjustments; and the services of competent workmen and a sufficient quantity of material were placed at my disposal, under the supervision of the Architect. In

Control acquired over the Dimensions of the Receptacles

the process of erecting these provisional fittings, some of the difficulties incident to the first design were overcome, and it was ascertained that, by the employment of certain adjustments, provision could be made for varying the dimensions of the receptacles, as well laterally, and from back to front, as vertically.

Material for Fittings of four Sections on east side of Hall ordered.

27. The Architect being satisfied that the new fittings would not only secure the stability of the structure, but afford improved accommodation for the Parchment Pleadings, orders were given early in the spring for the necessary supplies of iron; but unexpected delays in furnishing these materials having occurred, it became apparent in the month of May that either the Rolls Collection should be removed into the existing fittings, however

Necessity for removal of Rolls Collection.

unsuitable, or that the Vice-Chancellor's Court and offices should continue at the Record House for such a length of time as would probably be attended with much inconvenience. The former

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alternative being determined on, I thought it necessary, before proceeding with an operation which would not be a final or satisfactory one, to address a letter to the Master of the Rolls, setting forth the inconveniences inseparable from a deposit of the Chancery Pleadings in the existing fittings, and desiring an assurance that the transfer should be regarded only as a temporary arrangement pending the construction of the new fittings specially designed for them. Appendix XVI.

28. In reply to a communication from the Master of the Rolls, the Lords of the Treasury, on the 13th of May, 1868, signified their approval of that proposal, and steps were at once taken to prepare the Rolls Collection for transfer. In order that this operation might be conducted with greater regularity, and the progress of the work be better checked, lithographed Plans of the several floors of the Rolls Record Room indicating the contents, and marked with the numbers of the several presses, were prepared; and, presses being told off in sections, a Transfer Book for each section was placed in the hands of one of the officers of the Department, attended by two workmen, whose duty it was to separate the heaps into parcels of definite thickness, each of which, being entered by the dates of the first and last Pleading, and name of the Six-Clerk, where necessary, constituted a piece having a separate destination. The pieces so formed were then tied up in corded parcels, or in trammels to fit them for carriage, and keep them from falling asunder in their new place of deposit, and to each a label was attached, indicating the press and shelf in the Rolls Collection, from which it was to come, and the bay, shelf, and sub-number in the Record Treasury, to which it should go. The same process of entering and labelling was pursued with the other portions of the Collection, numbering 9,487 pieces in all. With the exception of the Pleadings, the sequence of which was determined by their dates, Delivery Dockets were made out for all the Collection, and accompanied the pieces on their removal. App. XVII. Preparation for removal of Rolls Collection. App. XVIII., XIX., XX.

29. The distinction prescribed by the Act between Records of twenty years old, and those under that age, not being considered to apply to those directly in charge of the Master of the Rolls as Keeper of the Records of Chancery, it was deemed expedient to include all the Pleadings by Bill and Answer, although coming down to the year 1850. Infra-vicesimal Records, some included.

30. It was also thought proper that the whole of the Inventions-Patents to the present time should be transferred to this Department. This large and very valuable class of documents had been for many years practically useless to the public, owing partly to the high scale of search fees in the Rolls Office, but chiefly to the want of room for its arrangement, and of hands to keep pace with the rapidly increasing matter transmitted almost continuously through the post. On looking at the collection where it was deposited on the tables, floor, press-tops, and window-sills of the Rolls Record Room, the Master of the Rolls agreed with me that it would be more likely to be useful to the public, if transferred entire to this Department. It has, accordingly, been deposited Inventions-Patents Collection.

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here, and arrangements are in progress for preparing the unassorted arrears and unopened parcels for the bookbinder.

Special estimate.

31. The duty of opening and distributing the varied contents of the parcels which arrive from time to time, will require constant attention; and it has been thought proper that, for that purpose, provision should be made in the amount estimated for the miscellaneous expenses in the year 1869–70.

Removal of Rolls Collection begun 16 June, 1868;

32. The several sets of Records having been prepared for transfer, the removal of the pieces was commenced on the 16th of June. This was effected by means of a gangway and platform from the windows at the rere of the great Record Room, so as to avoid interference with the public in their access to the Chancery Offices, and was completed on the 13th of July without any interruption to the service of the Department, and, as I believe, without the loss or injury of any Record.

completed 13 July, 1868.

Extra labour,

33. In addition to the regular staff of officers and workmen of the Department, there was employed in this operation a number of labourers, varying from ten to fifteen, supplied by the Board of Works. For the purpose of stimulating their exertions, and placing them more directly under the control of the Officers and Foreman, small sums were paid these labourers in addition to their regular wages, and the Foreman and workmen of the Department being called upon to work overtime, received rateable remuneration for their extra services from the fund placed at the disposal of the Department for Incidental Expenses.

compensated from Incidentals Fund.

Present position and state of the Chancery Pleadings.

34. The deposit of the Pleadings in their temporary receptacles has been attended with inconvenience, as was expected; but they have been found sufficiently accessible, and, as yet, have not suffered from being confined in the trammels, or from contact with the iron standards.

Mode of Searching.

35. When a Pleading is wanted, the Bill Book gives the date, and the Transfer Book indicates the piece in which the date will be found, and the piece, being taken down and carried to the light, the document sought is usually found in a few minutes, and the piece re-corded and returned to its place; but the arrangement will be much improved when the documents shall be arranged on their trays, removed from all injurious contact, and kept in a well lighted repository.

Rolls of Chancery.

36. The large portion of this collection, consisting of Rolls, has been deposited on open shelves, as it formerly stood in the presses of the Upper Rolls Record Room. But it is desirable that the Rolls should, as soon as possible, be placed on the side, so as to exclude the dust which now penetrates the vertical folds; and arrangements are in progress by which the same system of skeleton trays adopted for the Pleadings shall be applied to them; so that, while occupying much less space than at present, and fully exposed to the air, they will be secure from falling dust. A portion of the Chancery Collection, consisting of the Recognizance Rolls, has already been arranged in this manner, and is found easy of access, and very compact in point of space occupied.

New arrangement.

37. Your Excellency will have observed that a peculiar feature of the Record Treasury is the openness of its fittings, and the

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permeability, in all directions, of the whole internal area to light and air. The parchments in the Rolls Record Room were kept in closed presses, and had to some extent suffered from mildew and incipient decomposition. At first, on their lodgment on the open shelves of the Record Treasury, an offensive smell proceeded from some of them, but after a short time it passed off, and the air in those bays is now perfectly pure. Advantages of open Construction of Record Treasury.

38. The free circulation of air through all parts of the building is, however, attended with one disadvantage in the diffusion of dust and smoke from the chimneys of neighbouring factories. The deposit of sooty particles on all parts of the interior is very considerable, and it is to be feared that injury may be done to the Records by long exposure to these deposits. Liability to dust and smoke.

39. In adopting the system of skeleton trays (which, when not made in iron, consist of light wooden frames, with a cross piece and movable laths kept in position by their elasticity) regard has been had to the expediency of reducing the quantity of wood employed to a *minimum*. Every shelf of the Rolls presses contains 4,312 cubic inches of inflammable material. A small tray to carry the same area of parchment contains only 176 cubic inches, so that, three trays being sufficient for the contents of an average shelf, the reduction in the amount of inflammable matter, supposing wooden trays to be employed, may be considered as in the proportion of seven parts in eight. The wood employed is sycamore, as combining strength with slowness of combustion in a high degree. Recourse has not been had to steeping or otherwise impregnating the wood in these fittings with anti-combustive solutions, by reason of the risk of producing rust on the galvanized iron bearers on which they slide; but in the basement story, to which the presses of the Rolls Record Room have been transferred, it has been deemed prudent to remove the old paint and to treat the outside of the presses with solution of silicate of potass followed by coats of limewash and distemper. Steps taken to diminish employment of wood in fittings. Presses of Rolls Record Room in Basement

40. In the arrangement of the Rolls presses in the basement story, care has been taken to separate them into isolated blocks, divided at their closest approximation by the thickness of a pier of masonry, and each set of three of them divided from the others by an interval of not less than five feet. This basement being separated from the Upper Treasury by solid vaulting, there seems no probability of danger to the principal repository from any fire originating there. in isolated blocks.

41. In the Upper Treasury, however, although the original design was substantially to exclude the employment of wooden fittings, yet wooden shelving was introduced, and it now contains upwards of 5,000 cubic feet of timber disposed in a manner most favourable to combustion. As the tray system has dispensed with solid wooden shelving for all flat parchments and rolls, it is hoped that where extended surfaces of support are necessary, other means will be found by which shelving of this description may be gradually displaced, so as to place this repository on a par in point of security from fire with the great National Record Office of London. Wooden shelving in Treasury hall to be displaced as far as practicable.

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Transfer from other Repositories proceeded with.

42. In order to facilitate the re-arrangement of offices, under the recent Chancery Act, it was deemed expedient, without waiting to make any further arrangement of the pieces already deposited, to proceed with the transfer of the Books and Documents of the Registrar's Office, the Affidavit Office, Crown and Hanaper Office, and Recognizance Office of Chancery, and with the Records of the Crown Office of the Court of Queen's Bench, these being the parts of the Four Courts Buildings in which the operations of the Board of Works were expected to commence.

Registrars' Office of Court of Chancery.

43. The Registrar's Office of the Court of Chancery, as will he seen by the *Précis*, contained a large and very important class of Records, consisting of Hearing Books, Decrees, Orders, Reports, Petitions, and a great variety of incidental proceedings. It was deposited in presses in three apartments in the eastern quadrangle of the Four Courts. The preparations for transfer were undertaken by Mr. La Touche, assisted by Mr. Mills, on the 28th of July, and the removal was completed on the 14th of October. For the particulars of this operation, next to that of the Rolls Record Room, the most onerous as yet undertaken, I beg leave to refer to the Report of Mr. La Touche.

Transfer commenced 28th July, 1868; completed 14th October, 1868.

App. XXI.

Affidavit Office of Court of Chancery.

44. Mr. La Touche also, assisted by Mr. M'Ghee, conducted the preparation for transfer, and the removal of the Documents in the Affidavit Office of the Court of Chancery. This operation began on the 14th of August, and was completed on the 26th of September; the particulars will more fully appear by Mr. La Touche's Report, to which I beg leave to refer.

App. XXII.

Recognizance Office and Crown and Hanaper Office.

45. Mr. Overend, with the assistance of Mr. Berry, undertook the preparation for transfer and removal of the Records in the Recognizance Office and in the Crown and Hanaper Office of the Court of Chancery; for the particulars of these operations, beginning on the 16th and terminating on the 26th of October, I beg leave to refer to their Reports.

Appendix XXIII., XIV.

App. XXV.

46. On the 22nd of August, 1868, the Right Hon. the Master of the Rolls issued his warrant authorizing the Deputy Keeper to take possession of the Records in the Crown Office of the Court of Queen's Bench.

Crown Office of Court of Queen's Bench.

47. Mr. M'Ghee and Mr. Moloney were intrusted with the preparation for transfer of this important collection. These Records were entered, docketed, and labelled, preparatory to their receiving their destinations and being removed; but, owing to the approach of Term, and the unlikelihood of the Board of Works requiring possession for some time, remained unremoved at the end of the year. Amongst them are 140 Rolls in broken series of the Civil Side of the Court, from 34th Elizabeth to A.D. 1657, the existence of which does not appear to have been previously known. The Report of Messrs. Moloney and M'Ghee, under whose superintendence the collection has since been removed to the Record Treasury, will appear in the Appendix to the next annual Report.

Petitions in Chancery assorted.

48. On the removal of the Records of the Registrars' Office of the Court of Chancery it was found necessary to re-assort the collection of Petitions and Reports. The Petitions being original Documents, bearing the orders in the autographs of the Chan-

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cellors, of which there exist no copies or duplicates, are documents of great value, and frequent reference is had to them. From the carelessness of Solicitors who had been permitted to search them without the intervention of the officer, they had fallen into a state of great confusion. The re-arrangement of the whole collection was committed to Mr. Tucker, who commenced this laborious undertaking on the 18th of September, and by giving his Christmas vacation as overtime, had it accomplished on the 31st of December. The Documents which were folded and tied up in bundles have been separately opened out, distributed into their respective series, and made up in thicknesses suitable for reception in book-portfolios of a uniform size. A pattern of portfolio combining durability with facility of adjustment to contents of varying thickness, has been adopted. To facilitate the process of separate adjustment, it is proposed to make up these portfolios in the workshop of the Department with materials which are being supplied by the Stationery Office. Although still in uncased bundles, the entire collection is now in consultable order, but, after filling up numerous gaps in the several series, there still remains a hiatus of nine years, from 1800 to 1808 both inclusive, in letter N of the Petitions.

The subjoined table exhibits the general results of this operation. For details I beg leave to refer to the Report of Mr. Tucker in the Appendix. App. XXVI.

Classes of Documents.	Number of Portfolios.	Average No. of Documents in each.	Estimated Total Number of Documents.
Petitions,	350	300	105,000
Reports,	184	300	55,200
Accounts, Receivers',	135	250	33,750
,, Guardians',	41	250	10,250
Certificates,	34	300	10,200
Consents,	49	300	14,700
Submissions, Awards, and Releases,	22	250	5,500
Sequestrations and Injunctions,	7	150	1,050
Cases and Issues,	2	200	400
			236,050

Arrangement of the Litton Collection commenced.

49. The papers and documents from the repositories of Master Litton and his predecessors in office (computed to contain the proceedings in upwards of 6,000 causes), which had been roughly assorted in the order of the first letter only, were, at the close of the year, in process of being indexed and arranged in dictionary order under the direction of Mr. Mills, whose report of the completion of this operation will be submitted in the next Annual Report.

Record Tower, Dublin Castle

50. In the Record Tower (Dublin Castle) Branch it has been found necessary to remove a part of the collection in order to make room for accessions of Records from the Office of the Chief Secretary. The part selected for removal consists of the transcripts, manuscript compilations, and stock of printed matter of the expired Irish Record Commission deposited in one of the

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Irish Record Commission Collection transferred.

upper rooms of the Record Tower. Fittings specially adapted for the reception of other portions of the collection are now in progress, and it has been deemed advisable not to proceed further in the removal of the contents of the Record Tower for the present, more especially as, under the care of Sir J. Bernard Burke, Keeper of the State Papers, they have been arranged in excellent order, and are conveniently accessible.

App. XXVII.

I have the honour to refer your Excellency for the present state of the Records in the Record Tower Repository to the Report of Sir J. Bernard Burke, as Keeper of the State Papers, to the Right Hon. the Master of the Rolls, which will be found in the Appendix.

Calendar of Patent Rolls of James I.

51. Amongst the stock of unbound printed matter in the Record Commission Collection are sheets of the earlier portion of the Calendar of Patent Rolls of James I., by the aid of which the residue of about sixty imperfect copies of that valuable and now very rare work remaining in the Rolls Collection may be completed.

Recapitulation of Documents transferred.

52. The general nature and extent of the collection which, up to the close of the year 1868, had been removed to and placed in consultable order in the Record Treasury will appear from the following table. Owing to the very wide limits within which the number of documents in each piece ranges, and many of the pieces, such as sacks, being still unarranged, the average total of instruments is not included.

Former Repository.	Classes of Documents.	Number of Pieces.
Rolls Record Room, .	Fiants for Letters Patent, . .	678
	Rolls, Patent and Close, . . .	1,156
	„ Deed, ...	32
	„ Statute, ...	611
	„ Catholic, ...	518
	Transmisses, ...	154
	Pleadings in Chancery, Ancient, .	269
	Bills and Answers, ...	4,522
	Decrees, ...	357
	Inquisitions, ...	201
	Court Palatine of Tipperary, Pleadings,	143
	Equity Exchequer Decrees, . .	30
	Inventions-Patents, . . .	215
	Miscellaneous, ...	257
	Bill and Index Books, . . .	344
Registrars' Office, Court of Chancery.	Pleadings and Appearances, . .	63
	Chancery Rolls, Motion and Hearing Books, ...	489
	Petitions, ...	895
	Reports, ...	730
	Order Books, ...	532
	Decrees, ...	455

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Former Repository.	Classes of Documents.	Number of Pieces.
Registrars' Office, Court of Chancery—*con.*	Accounts and Account Books, . .	249
	Consents, ...	408
	Rule Books, Chancery, . . .	98
	,, Equity Exchequer, .	13
	Appearance Books, ...	45
	Pleadings, ...	19
	Masters' Certificates, . . .	21
	Perambulations and Awards, . .	490
	Depositions, ...	662
	Equity Exchequer Hearing and Docket Books, ...	27
	Miscellaneous, ...	27
Affidavit Office of Chancery.	Affidavits, ...	6,118
Hanaper Office, . .	(Details in Transfer Books), . .	672
Recognizance Office, .	Recognizances, Rolls, and Orders, .	237
Brooke Collection, .	Deed Boxes, ...	261
	Cause Papers, &c., ...	7,279
Litton Collection, .	Deed Boxes, ...	352
Usher of Court of Chancery.	(Details in Index), ...	765
Record Tower, Dublin Castle.	(Details in Transfer Book), . .	514
	Total, ...	30,908

53. Excepting those of the Brooke Causes collection, each of the above-mentioned pieces is entered in the Transfer Books, and (save the Chancery Pleadings series) in the Delivery Sheets. These entries constitute particular Indexes, single or in duplicate, to the several portions of the collection. An Index *Raisonnée* of leading heads has been formed to the collective entries. A general detailed Index is in progress, commencing with the Rolls collection: it is completed up to page 222, and comprises the whole of the Pleadings series and Rolls. Each piece is referred to by its bay, shelf, and sub-number in columns headed "Temporary Position in Record Treasury," there being columns left in blank for final destinations. Indexing and Calendaring.

Draft indexes have been prepared for the Brooke Causes Collection, the Brooke Deed Boxes, the Litton Deed Boxes, the Usher's of Chancery Collection, and the sealed Depositions.

A Calendar to the Enrolment of Deeds, under the Act for abolishing Fines and Recoveries, in continuation of that prepared by Mr. Hatchell, and printed for the Rolls Office, is in progress.

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It comprises the necessary particulars of each enrolment in a more
App. XXVIII. succinct form than was previously adopted. A specimen page is given in the Appendix.

A manuscript index to the Calendar of Patent Rolls of James I. (left unindexed by the Irish Record Commission) which was prepared by Mr. L'Estrange, formerly of the Quit-rent Office, has, by the permission of that gentleman, been transcribed for the use of this department.

Present state of Record Treasury.

54. The progress made, as well in filling the receptacles provided in the finished part of the Treasury as in the erection of the new fittings, will appear from the subjoined tabular epitome, which may be regarded as representing a longitudinal section of the building.

It will be observed that the bulk of the collection, consisting almost altogether of Records of the Court of Chancery, is placed on the western side of the hall. The object of this arrangement is to provide a temporary place of deposit for the Pleadings, Rolls, and other documents requiring special fittings for their ultimate reception pending the completion of the eastern bays, shown in the table as in process of construction.

Progress in constructing new Bays.

55. The iron fittings necessary for this purpose were not delivered until the month of October, since which time the artisans employed under the Commissioners of Works have been actively engaged in the work of construction. The deflected lattice girders were made permanently secure; the joists and floors were laid, and progress made in preparing the standards and apparatus for carrying the trays before the close of the year. In these newly fitted up bays the central lattice partition and centre block of shelving are omitted, so as to leave the entire window space unobstructed, with a floor of six feet in width in the centre of each bay, the loss of space caused by the abolition of the central shelves being compensated by the increased depth of the receptacles at each side.

[TABLE.

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State of Bays on East Side of Record Treasury, 31st December, 1868.

	6 A In process of construction.	6 B In process of construction.	6 C In process of construction.	6 D In process of construction.	6 E Vacant.	6 F Vacant.	6 G Vacant.	6 H Vacant.	6 I Vacant.	6 K Vacant.
	5 A Do.	5 B Do.	5 C Do.	5 D Do.	5 E Do.	5 F Do.	5 G Do.	5 H Do.	5 I Do.	5 K Do.
	4 A Do.	4 B Do.	4 C Do.	4 D Do.	4 E Do.	4 F Do.	4 G Do.	4 H Do.	4 I Do.	4 K Do.
North.	3 A Do.	3 B Do.	3 C Do.	3 D Do.	3 E Do.	3 F Do.	3 G Do.	3 H Do.	3 I Do.	3 K Do. South.
	2 A Do.	2 B Do.	2 C Do.	2 D Do.	2 E Do.	2 F Do.	2 G Do.	2 H Do.	2 I Do.	2 K Do.
	1 A Do.	1 B Do.	1 C Do.	1 D Do.	1 E Do.	1 F Do.	1 G Do.	1 H Do.	1 I Do.	1 K Equity Exchequer. Books.
Vaults	A Chancery. Deed Boxes. Brooke.	B Chancery. Cause Papers. Brooke.	C Chancery. Deed Boxes. Litton.	D Chancery. Deed Boxes. Litton. Usher of Court of Chancery. Depositions.	E Vacant.	F Vacant.	G Vacant.	H Vacant.	I Vacant.	K Vacant.

State of Bays on West Side of Record Treasury, 31st December, 1868.

	6 L Vacant.	6 M Vacant.	6 N Vacant.	6 O Vacant.	6 P Vacant.	6 Q Vacant.	The Bays in this portion of the Hall not yet constructed.			
	5 L Vacant.	5 M Vacant.	5 N Vacant.	5 O Vacant.	5 P Chancery. Ancient Pleadings to A.D. 1624.	5 Q Vacant.				
	4 L Chancery Rolls. Statute Transmisses.	4 M Chancery. Ancient Pleadings. 1624 to 1655. Bills & Answers, 1655 to 1686.	4 N Chancery. Bills & Answers, 1687 to 1716.	4 O Chancery. Bills & Answers, 1716 to 1735.	4 P Chancery. Bills & Answers, 1735 to 1750.	4 Q Vacant.				
South.	3 L Chancery Rolls. Patent Deed Decrees. Statute. Catholic Convert. Recognizance.	3 M Chancery. Bills & Answers, 1750 to 1765.	3 N Chancery. Bills & Answers, 1765 to 1778.	3 O Chancery. Bills & Answers, 1778 to 1790.	3 P Chancery. Bills & Answers, 1790 to 1802.	3 Q Chancery. Recognizances.				North.
	2 L Chancery Rolls. Patent. Deed. Statute.	2 M Chancery. Bills & Answers, 1802 to 1814.	2 N Chancery. Bills & Answers, 1814 to 1826.	2 O Chancery. Bills & Answers, 1826 to 1837.	2 P Chancery. Bills & Answers, 1837 to 1850.	2 Q Chancery. Inquisitions. Long Pleadings. Tipperary Pleadings Miscellaneous.				
	1 L Chancery. Fiants for Letters Patent.	1 M Chancery. Registrars' Office.	1 N Chancery. Registrars' Office. Affidavit Office.	1 O Chancery. Affidavit Office.	1 P Chancery. Inventions' Patents.	1 Q Chancery. Commissions. Hanaper Office.				
Vaults.	L Vacant.	M Vacant.	N Vacant.	O Vacant.	P Vacant.	Q Vacant.	R Vacant.	S Vacant.	T Vacant.	U Vacant.

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56. The fees received in the Search and Transcribing Department of the Office here for the ten months during which the Record Office has been in effective operation, up to 31st December, 1868, amount to £131 17*s.* 6*d.*; the details of the work appear by the annexed table, the charges at 1*s.* per folio indicating the transcription of documents of dates prior to the reign of George III. Fees to 31st December, 1868.

FEES RECEIVED to 31st DECEMBER, 1868.

—	Inspections.	Folios at 1*s.*	Folios at 6*d.*	—	—
				£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1868.					
February,	3	–	–	0 3 0	
	–	–	–	—	
	–	–	220	5 10 0	
					5 13 0
March,	18	–	–	0 18 0	
	–	233	–	11 13 0	
	–	–	17	0 8 6	
					12 19 6
April,	18	–	–	0 18 0	
	–	24	–	1 4 0	
	–	–	233	5 16 6	
					7 18 6
May,	10	–	–	0 10 0	
	–	46	–	2 6 0	
	–	–	162	4 1 0	
					6 17 0
June,	5	–	–	0 5 0	
	–	124	–	6 4 0	
	–	–	128	3 4 0	
					9 13 0
July,	15	–	–	0 15 0	
	–	188	–	9 8 0	
	–	–	515	12 17 6	
					23 0 6
August,	22	–	–	1 2 0	
	–	18	–	0 18 0	
	–	–	22	0 11 0	
					2 11 0
September,	12	–	–	0 12 0	
	–	222	–	11 2 0	
	–	–	12	0 6 0	
					12 0 0
October,	12	–	–	0 12 0	
	–	48	–	2 8 0	
	–	–	227	5 13 6	
					8 13 6
November,	13	–	–	0 13 0	
	–	48	–	2 8 0	
	–	–	481	12 0 6	
					15 1 6
December,	21	–	–	1 1 0	
	–	252	–	12 12 0	
	–	–	554	13 17 0	
					27 10 0
	149	1,203	2,571	—	£131 17 6

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Fees at Custom House Branch.

57. At the Custom House Branch, owing to the peculiar nature of the services there rendered, most of them being gratuitous, the fees from 10th October, 1867, to 31st December, 1868, amount only to £46 3*s.* 6*d.*

CUSTOM HOUSE BRANCH.—FEES up to 31st DECEMBER, 1868.

Date.	Constats.			Searches.			Copies.			Traces.			—		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
10th October, 1867, to 29th February, 1868,	8	2	6	3	4	8	1	0	4	0	15	0	13	2	6
March, 1868, . .	4	15	0	1	9	4	0	2	8	0	10	0	6	17	0
April, „ . .	0	5	0	0	8	0	0	10	0		—		1	3	0
May, „ . .	1	10	0	0	16	0		—		1	0	0	3	6	0
June, „ . .	3	5	0	1	12	0	0	8	0	0	10	0	5	15	0
July, „ . .	5	5	0	1	18	0	1	0	0		—		8	3	0
August, „ . .	0	5	0	0	2	0		—			—		0	7	0
September, „ . .		—		0	10	0		—			—		0	10	0
October, „ . .	2	0	0	0	11	0	0	5	0	0	10	0	3	6	0
November, „ . .	0	15	0	0	11	0	0	10	0		—		1	16	0
December, „ . .	1	5	0	0	13	0		—			—		1	18	0
Total, ... £													46	3	6

Exceptional services at Custom House Branch.

58. The details of the gratuitous work performed at the Custom House Branch, and which up to the present has withdrawn two of the staff from the more immediate duties of this Office, appear by the following return furnished by Mr. Day:—

BUSINESS transacted at the CUSTOM HOUSE BRANCH of the PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE of IRELAND, for PUBLIC DEPARTMENTS, from 1st November, 1867, to 31st December, 1868.

Month.	Reports.	Searches.	Maps exhibited for Tracings	Discharging Rents from Rental.	Entering Patents and other Appointments.	Certificates in duplicate.
November, 1867, . .	9	7	5	–	3	6
December, „ . .	6	18	3	29	2	4
January, 1868, . .	8	8	12	3	1	2
February, „ . .	8	17	16	2	–	–
March, „ . .	6	31	5	13	–	–
April, „ . .	13	8	8	13	–	–
May, „ . .	10	19	8	9	–	–
June, „ . .	6	60	11	5	–	–
July, „ . .	6	6	8	5	–	–
August, „ . .	–	1	3	5	–	–
September, „ . .	4	1	9	1	–	–
October, „ . .	5	5	4	–	–	–
November, „ . .	3	6	10	–	–	–
December, „ . .	8	166	5	34	7	14
Total, . .	92	353	107	119	13	26

It is chiefly in connexion with the requirements of the Quit-rent branch of the Department of Woods and Forests, and in continuation of the former practice of the Landed Estates Record

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Office, that these services have been given. There being no provision in the Act for continuing the former practice after the removal of the Custom House collection, which will probably take place during the present year, I have communicated in reference to these services with the Right Hon. the Master of the Rolls, who has brought the subject under the consideration of the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury.

59. The provisions of the Act (s. 7) for making compensation to former Record keepers and persons officially deriving emolument from searching or copying Records have not added materially to the expenses incurred for the purposes of the Act. In one case an annual sum has been awarded; and in two other instances the receipt of the maximum salaries has been accelerated, under the proviso that account shall be taken of such compensation in any salary to which the compensated party may become entitled in virtue of any appointment in the Public Record Office. Other claims, under the seventh section of the Act will arise during the progress of the removal. Expenses under Compensation Section.

60. I have to acknowledge the following donations to the Department:— Donations.

From the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury—

Irish State Papers. Five volumes.
Transcripts of Carte Papers. Twenty-seven volumes. App. XXIV.
Fac-similes of National MSS. Three volumes. App. XXV.
The National MSS. of Scotland.
Chronicles of Picts and Scots. Edited by W. F. Skene, esq.
Ledger of Andrew Halyburton. Edited by C. Innes.

From Francis Morgan, esq., Law Agent to the Municipal Corporation of Dublin—

Rental of the Estates of the Corporation of Dublin.

From M. A. Vallet (de Viriville)—

L'Ecole des Chartes: Paris, 1867.

61. At the time of the delivery of the first portion of the Carte Transcripts the Establishment had not been fully formed. On the arrival of the second instalment, with the valuable and interesting collection of Irish State Papers from Philadelphia, it was considered proper, notwithstanding the serious drawbacks occasioned by want of room and pre-occupation of the officers in the more urgent work of transfer to open the department to literary searchers. No proper reading-room being as yet available, the amount of literary inquiry has hitherto been inconsiderable. Literary Searchers. App. XXXI.

62. The business of organizing the department and carrying on the weighty operations of transfer and construction has not yet admitted of any steps being taken under the provisions of the Act authorizing official Publications. 30 & 31 Vic. c. 70, ss. 21, 22.

63. I beg leave to express my satisfaction in the zeal and ability with which the officers and servants of the Department

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have discharged their various duties, and to add my acknowledgment of the efficient assistance rendered to me in the great multiplicity of mechanical details involved in the year's operations by the Commissioners of Public Works, their Architect and Foreman.

I further desire to thank the Deputy Keeper and Officers of the Public Record Office, London, for frequent and valuable advice in the detail of official organization.

All which is humbly submitted to your Excellency.

Dated at the Public Record Office of
Ireland, Four Courts, Dublin, this
12th day of February, 1869.

SAMUEL FERGUSON,

Deputy Keeper of the Public Records in Ireland.

I humbly certify to your Excellency that this Report is made by the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records in Ireland, under my direction, pursuant to the Statute.

JOHN E. WALSH, *M.R.*

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APPENDIX.

Appendix No. 1.

Memorandum of delivery of possession of Record Building.

19th November, 1867.

Sir,—Pursuant to the provisions of the Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867, I herewith, on behalf of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, deliver up to the Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in Ireland the building erected in the neighbourhood of the Four Courts in Dublin, for the purpose of serving as a Public Record Office.

(Signed,) James H. Owen.

To Samuel Ferguson, Esq., &c., &c.

19th November, 1867.

I accept possession on behalf of the Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls in Ireland.

(Signed,) Samuel Ferguson,
Deputy Keeper of the Records in Ireland.

Witness present—Robert G. Day.

Appendix No. 2.

Contents of the several undermentioned Record Repositories of Ireland, as they existed in October, 1864.*

PRINTED AS INSTRUCTIONS TOWARDS THE REMOVAL OF THE RECORDS TO THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, NOVEMBER, 1867.

The Rolls Office.

The different series may be classed under seventeen heads:

1. The Chancery Enrolments, commonly known as the Patent and Close Rolls. The Patent Rolls commence in the reign of Edward I., and are continued down to the present time; there are, however, some chasms in the series, and during the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, Elizabeth, and James I., the Rolls themselves are very incomplete.

2. The Close Rolls commence in the twentieth year of the reign of Edward II., and end in the thirteenth of Charles I., but were never continued in regular succession. After the roll last mentioned the distinction between Patent and Close Rolls was wholly discontinued; indeed it does not appear to have been strictly observed in Ireland from the beginning, as Letters Patent were often enrolled on the Close Rolls, and, in numerous instances, Close Letters are recorded on the Patent Rolls.

* Abstracted from "Survey" of Messrs. T. Duffus Hardy and Brewer, prepared for use of Her Majesty's Treasury.

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3. The Parliament Rolls, comprising both the public and the private Acts of the Irish Parliament, begin with the reign of Henry VI., and end in the year 1800, at the Union.

4. The Recognizance Rolls commence with the reign of Henry VIII., and end in the tenth year of the reign of Charles I.

5. Cromwell's Rolls extend from 1653 to 1659, and contain chiefly deeds and memoranda; there are, however, some charters and grants upon them, and, consequently, they are considered as a portion of the series of the Patent Rolls.

6. The pleadings, or bills and answers in the Court of Chancery, from the year 1568 to the present time. Those from the year 1568 to 1648 were brought to the Rolls Office from the dome of the Four Courts about the year 1819, by order of the Commissioners of Public Records for Ireland, and are not well arranged. Those from 1655 to 1760 have been tied up in bundles, and have been correctly arranged and indexed; but those from 1760 to 1848 are not arranged in bundles but placed on shelves in presses, in perfect order, with good indexes, and are easily referred to.

7. The decrees of the Court of Chancery commence in the twenty-fourth year of the reign of Henry VIII., and, with a chasm from 1643 to 1655, come down to 1775. From that time to the year 1843, they were engrossed on irregular skins of parchment; were written on both sides in a very indifferent, and often illegible, hand, and are full of clerical errors. From 1843 this objectionable mode of dealing with the decrees was remedied by confining the materials of the decree for enrolment to the mere decretal part, and the documents were fairly transcribed and bound in uniform volumes.

8. The Convert Rolls commence in 1703, and contain the enrolments of Bishops' and Ministers' Certificates to such persons as had conformed to the Protestant religion. The Bishops' Certificates end in 1782, and the Ministers' begin at this date, and continue in regular succession to the Roman Catholic Emancipation Act. There are also a number of bundles from 1709 to 1781, containing certificates from the Prothonotaries and other officers of the Superior Courts of Law, stating what persons had conformed to the Protestant religion, and taken the Sacrament within the prescribed time.

9. The Roman Catholic Rolls commence in 1778, and contain the qualifications of Roman Catholic. This series is very incomplete.

10. The Rolls of the Palatinate Court of Tipperary range from 1703 to 1714. The pleadings filed in that Court commence in 1662 and end in 1714. These documents were deposited in the Rolls Office, pursuant to statute 2 Geo. I.

11. Letters of Guardianship, &c., of Lunatics, which are kept in bundles, commence in 1796, and are continued in a regular series to the present time.

12. Warrants, commonly called "Fiants," from their commencing words: "Fiant litteræ domini Regis patentes," begin with the twenty-first year of the reign of Henry VIII., and are continued to the present time. These very important documents supply the deficiencies of the Patent Rolls, as we have already pointed out, and a calendar of them ought to be printed forthwith as a necessary supplement to the calendar of these Rolls.

13. The Inquisitions *post mortem* commence with the reign of Elizabeth (a few are found of an earlier date), and come down to the Restoration.

14. The Inquisitions on attainder begin with the reign of Elizabeth, and continue to that of William III.

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15. Documents commonly known as "Strafford's Inquisitions," taken in 1635 and 1637, and finding the title of Charles I. to the province of Connaught.

16. Transmisses of public and private Acts of Parliament from the reign of Henry VII. to the Union. These records, which are very numerous, were transferred from the Parliamentary Office to the Rolls Office at the Union by the directions of Lord Chancellor Clare.

17. Under the head of "Miscellanea" are several original Records (which cannot be classed under any of the above-mentioned heads), consisting of Surveys, Charters, Rentals, and other instruments.

Besides the above, which may be termed Chancery Records, the following were transferred to the Rolls Office in 1851 :—

Exchequer Bills and Answers from 1674 to 1850 (about thirty of the documents fall within the years 1664 and 1674).
Exchequer Bill Books from 1674 to 1850.
Exchequer Decrees from 1624 to 1850.
Enrolments of Exchequer Decrees from 1835.

The Registrars' Office of the Court of Chancery.

In this department, which is in the Four Courts Buildings, the following series of Records are preserved :—

1. Order Books from 1583, irregular to 1636.
2. Books of Pleadings from 1664.
3. Books of Hearings and Motions from 1621 to 1729. Book of Hearings from 1729 to 18—.
4. Petitions from 1700, irregular to 1750.
5. Decrees from 1715.
6. Exceptions, Reports, Certificates, Accounts, Awards, and Attachments from 1728, irregular to 1750.
7. Commissions and Perambulations from 1704.
8. Consents from 1752.
9. Appearances from 1745.
10. Side Bar Chancery Books from 1827.
11. Exchequer Rule Books from 1822 to 1850.
12. Exchequer Petitions from 1844 to 1850.
13. Masters' Orders from 1850.

The Hanaper and Crown Office of the Court of Chancery.

This Office is on the ground-floor of the Western Quadrangle of the Four Courts, immediately under the Record Room of the Rolls Office. The Records in this Office consist of—

Registers, or Books of Entries of Documents which pass under the Great Seal,* such as the appointments of Public Officers, of Bishops, Deans, and the Clergy appointed to Crown livings.
Commissions of the Peace for counties, cities, and boroughs.
Commission of Assize and Gaol Delivery.
Special Commissions.
Commissions of Delegates of Review of Lunacy, and Admiralty, of Valuation, and Commissions appointing Masters Extraordinary.
Writs for the election of Peers Temporal to sit in Parliament pursuant to the Act of Union, and of Members of the House of Commons.
Inquisitions on Statute Staple, and Magistrates' Oaths.

* The Warrants called "Fiant," for making out Letters Patent and Commissions, are sent up to the Rolls Office.

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Masters in Chancery.

There are four Masters in Chancery, each having his own records and papers, which are of a very miscellaneous character. Besides those properly appertaining to a Master in Chancery, each Master has under his charge numerous books and documents which formerly belonged to the abolished Office of the Equity side of the Court of Exchequer. The following list, combining the Chancery and Exchequer Records, will give some notion of the nature of these documents :—

1. Draft Conveyances to purchasers of lands sold by Chief Remembrancer of the Exchequer, pursuant to Decrees of Court, from 1757 to 1850.
2. Charges, Discharges, and Miscellaneous Papers, from 1745 to 1850.
3. Bundles of Interrogatories and Depositions unarranged.
4. Title Deeds lodged in the Remembrancer's Office, pursuant to orders of the Barons of the Exchequer.
5. Affidavits, very numerous, from 1690 to 1809.
6. Depositions from 1723.
7. Title Deeds; Books of Account.
8. Rule Books of the Chief and Second Remembrancer of the Exchequer from 1840 to 1850.
9. Summons Books.
10. Receivers' Books.
11. Letting Books.
12. Leases to Tenants under Order of Court.
13. Reports of Chief and Second Remembrancer of the Exchequer, from about 1760 to 1839.
14. Court Books containing particulars of Biddings at Sales, from 1725 to 1850.
15. Old Account Books; some of these appear to be mercantile, and were probably exhibits in various suits.
16. Miscellaneous Papers, which probably belonged to solicitors, and have been left in the offices from time to time.
17. Draft Reports.
18. Receivers' Accounts passed from 1800 to 1850.
19. Tenants' Proposals and Counterpart Draft Leases.
20. Replications and Rejoinders, from 1682 to 1832.
21. Writs of Attachment, Replevin, Scire Facias, &c., formerly belonging to the Filacer's Office.
22. Sheriffs' Accounts, Processes, &c. These Rolls and Papers formerly belonged to the abolished Office of Clerk of Estreats.
23. Accounts of County Treasurers, from 1837 to the present time. These are very numerous, and occupy considerable space.

Besides the foregoing, these offices contain cause petitions, orders, charges, discharges, draft reports, draft orders, and all papers lodged in the conduct of causes and matters which have passed through the Masters' Offices since August, 1850, to the present time (pursuant to the Chancery Registration Act), with the exception of the Receivers' accounts, Masters' reports and orders, which, when passed or signed, are transmitted to the Registrars' Office.

Besides the above, there is in each of the four Masters' Offices a large collection of deeds and valuable documents which have been deposited there for reference during the progress of different suits, to enable the

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Master to take accounts and ascertain the rights of parties, and these have never been removed. These deeds are preserved in tin cases and wooden boxes. In 1858 there were about 1,000 of these boxes.

The Cursitors of the Court of Chancery.

The Cursitors' Office was abolished in the year , and the documents, consisting of—

Præcipes or instructions for the issuing of original writs and warrants of attorney, which were filed in that Office upon the issuing of writs;
Præcipes to Outlawry;

are at present deposited in the same building as the Equity Exchequer Records.

The Chief Examiner's Office in Chancery.

The Records in this Office consist of—

Interrogatories, which have been filed for the examination of witnesses in causes pending in the Court of Chancery.
Depositions taken to such Interrogatories, whether by the Examiner-in-chief in person or by Commissioners duly appointed for such purpose.

The earliest of these Records bears date in the year 1503. The books in relation to the Records commence in the year 1656. In the year 1850 the Equity side of the Exchequer was abolished, and the records of the then Senior Examiner on the Equity side, consisting of Interrogatories and Depositions, were transferred to this Office. Previously to that time it seems that these Records were lodged in the private houses of the Examiners. The earliest of these Exchequer Records bears date in 1803.

The books relating to these Records commence in 1803, and are continued regularly to 1850, when the office was abolished.

The Affidavit Office.

This Office contains all affidavits filed in the Court of Chancery from the year 1662, as well as those in the Equity side of the Exchequer when it was abolished in 1850, and the affidavits sent here. The earliest date of the Exchequer affidavits is not known.

The Recognizance Office.

This Office contains all the Recognizances entered into by parties in the Court of Chancery from the year 1690 to the present time. The indexes to these documents extend over the same period.

Lunacy Office.

This Office contains Petitions, Orders, Reports, Accounts, and Affidavits in Lunacy causes. They go back to the year 1745. Previous to the year 1843 all the documents are in bundles, since which time they are bound up in volumes. The Reports of Medical Inspectors begin in 1860.

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We proceed to the Records of the Law Courts, the chief of which is—

The Queen's Bench.

The Records on the Civil side of this Court consist of the undermentioned series:—

1. Declaration, Ejectment, and Plaint Books, from 1707 to 1864.
2. Nil Dicit Judgment Books, from 1806 to 1850.
3. Affidavit Books, from 1813 to 1864.
4. Judgment Mortgage Books, from 1850 to 1864.
5. Defence to Ejectments Books, from 1823 to 1851.
6. Sheriffs' Returned Writ Books, from 1836 to 1864.
7. Consent Books, from 1834 to 1864.
8. Postea Books, from 1836 to 1864.
9. Titles of Declarations and Plaints, from 1850 to 1864.
10. „ Defences to same, from 1850 to 1864.
11. „ Posteas, from 1848 to 1864.
12. „ Ejectment Affidavits, from 1825 to 1864.
13. „ Motion Affidavits, from 1825 to 1864.
14. „ Judgment Mortgage Affidavits, from 1850 to 1864.
15. „ Scire Facias and Pleas, from 1848 to 1853.
16. „ Returned Writs from Sheriffs, from 1851 to 1864.
17. „ Consents (of Court and Nisi Prius), from 1848 to 1864.
18. „ Certificates of Costs, from 1848 to 1864.
19. „ Masters' Reports, from 1848 to 1864.
20. „ Judgment Pleadings, from 1850 to 1864.

In the Dome of the Four Courts Building the following series are deposited:—

21. Nil Dicit Pleadings, from 1715 to 1850.
22. Judgment in Trespass Cases and Ejectments, and Posteas, from 1672 to 1850.
23. Certificates of Costs, from 1705 to 1840.
24. Summons, from 1805 to 1833.
25. Writs from Sheriffs, from 1681 to 1850.
26. Rules to Plead, from 1735 to 1829.
27. Scire Facias, from 1760 to 1850.
28. Ejectment Affidavits, from 1720 to 1824.
29. Affidavits for Writs, from 1804 to 1833.
30. Affidavits to appoint Commissioners, from 1826 to 1834.
31. Case and Trespass Declarations, from 1741 to 1849.
32. Bail Pieces, from 1730 to 1822.
33. Pleas, from 1689 to 1850.
34. Ejectment Declarations, from 1720 to 1850.
35. Insolvent Papers, from letter A to Z.

All the above are placed in the "Pleadings Assistant's Office." There is also on the Civil side of this Court a large iron chest, containing Records of Outlawry for High Treason. The keys of the chest are deposited with the Lord Chief Justice of this Court for the time being.

In the "Record Assistant's" custody are the following:—

1. Rolls (in terms) of Judgments (case and debt), from 1661 to 1770, and to the present time, two sets separate.
2. Two sets of Final Judgment Books of Reference to the above, down to 1st of November, 1844; but from that year to the present only one set.

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3. Rolls of Memorials of Assignment of Judgments, from 1736 to the present time.
4. Files of Original Memorials of the above.
5. Files of Warrants to satisfy Judgments, from 1762 to the present time.
6. Affidavits on which Judgments were redocketed, from 27th June, 1828, to 1st of November, 1844.
7. One set of Interlocutory Judgment Books, from 1812 to 1821.
8. Two sets of Interlocutory Judgment Books, from 1821 to 1844; and one set from 1844 to 1853.
9. Attorney Indenture and Admission Books, from 1815 to 1844.
10. Rolls of Attorneys and Qualification oaths, from 1691 to the present time.
11. Satisfaction Books, two sets, from 1821 to 1844.
12. One set of Satisfaction Entry Books, from 1844 to the present time.
13. One set of Books of Entries of Assignments, from 1844 to the present time.
14. Files of Cognovits, from 1702 to the present time.

The more ancient Rolls of this Court, viz., the Placita from Henry III. to Charles I. inclusive, are deposited in the Bermingham Tower.

The Records of the Criminal Side of the Court of Queen's Bench preserved in the Crown Office.

The Public Records, Rolls, Books and Papers in the custody of the Clerk of the Crown of the Court of Queen's Bench, are as follow:—

1. Enrolments of Indictments, Presentments, and Judgments, from the reign of James I. to the present time.
2. Indictments from 1762 to the present time.
3. Judgments on Writs of Error, Writs of Exigent.
4. Informations from 1720.
5. Writs of Mandamus from 9 William III.
6. Miscellaneous Records of the reigns of James I. and Charles I.
7. Files of Writs of Venire and Habeas Corpus.
8. Writs of Certiorari.
9. Copies of Informations, Grand Panels, Term Crown Lists, Special Jury Lists, and Bills of Costs.
10. Indictments and Pleadings in the Queen *v.* O'Connell and others.
11. Recognizances and Attorney-General's Consents.
12. Transport Orders for Soldiers.
13. Affidavits for grounding applications to the Court from 1711.
14. Rule Books from 1646.
15. Cash Books from 1806.
16. Interrogatories and Answers; Articles of Peace and Appeals from 1722.
17. City of Dublin Presentments from 1724.
18. City of Dublin Maps, Presentments, and Quere Books.
19. County of Dublin Presentment Books, Quere Books, Maps and Affidavits.
20. Old Indictments at Commission Courts and Pardons.

The Court of Common Pleas.

The Records here are kept in several rooms and passages belonging to this Court in the Four Courts Building, and date as far back as the year 1558. It must, however, be remarked that the ancient Placita of

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this Court are at present, like those belonging to the Queen's Bench, already mentioned, deposited in the Bermingham Tower. The Records consist of Rolls containing Judgments, Deeds, and Recoveries, and are described in the Report of the late Record Commissioners for Ireland, vol. i., pp. 113–120. The following list of the documents in this Office has been kindly furnished us by the present Master of this Court:—

Rolls containing Judgments, Deeds, and Recoveries, 1591 to 1596, 33rd and 38th Elizabeth; imperfect.
1610, 1617, 1618, 16th and 17th James I.; imperfect.
1656, Oliver Cromwell.
1661 to 1684, Charles II., complete, except 1662.
1685 to 1689, James II., complete.
1690 to 1701, William and Mary, complete.
1702 to 1715, Queen Anne, complete.
1715 to 1727, George I., complete.
1727 to 1760, George II., complete.
1761 to 1820, George III., complete.
1820 to 1830, George IV., complete.
1831 to 1837, William IV., complete.
1837 to , Victoria.

To all the foregoing, the Books of Reference are complete.

Recoveries and Deeds from 1591 to 1834.
Indentures of Fines, together with Writs of Covenant and Concord, from 1648 to 1834.
Records of Fines and other Proceedings from the Palatinate Court of Tipperary, from 1663 to 1714. These documents were removed from Tipperary to this Office by Act of Parliament passed in the year 1715.
Memorials of Assignments.
Cognovits.
Affidavits.
Submissions to Arbitration and Awards.
Pleadings.
Warrants of Attorney.
Final Judgment Books.
Satisfaction Pieces.
Deeds of Acknowledgment by Married Women.
Rule Books.
Money Books.
Posteas.
Inquisitions.
Executions.
Miscellaneous Pleadings and Certificates.
Rolls of Attorneys, &c.
Indexes for reference.

There is also a large quantity of Records from the year 1612, packed in sacks, and carefully stowed away in the vaults of the Court, consisting of—

Writs and Pleadings.
Petitions and Indentures of Attorneys.
Copies of Negative Searches.
Interlocutory Judgments.
Affidavits.

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Posteas.
Bail Bonds.
Processes to Outlawry.
Certificates of Costs.
Quare Impedits.

And a variety of other documents. These, like the former, are capable of reference.

The Court of Exchequer.

The Records of this Court are divided into three branches:—1, those belonging to the Law side; 2, the Equity side; and 3, to the Revenue.

In the first, or Law side, the public Records consist of the following series, made up into Rolls, one or more for each term, viz.:—

Judgments by Cognovit.
Judgments by Nil Dicit.
Judgments on Postea and Inquisition.
Judgments in Ejectment.
Judgments on Scire Facias.
Alphabetical Books referring to these Rolls.
Memorials of the Assignments of Judgments.
Warrants to acknowledge the Satisfaction of Judgments.
Books of various Rules, Orders, Judgments, and Proceedings of the Court.
Certificates of the amount of Plaintiffs' Debts.

All these Records are dispersed in various rooms belonging to the Master of the Court, in the Four Courts Building.

There are also in the custody of the Master all the Records which before the statute 7 & 8 Vic., cap. 107, were under the care of the late Clerk of the Pleas, consisting of—

Declarations.
Demurrers.
Replications.
Rejoinders and Pleadings of all kinds in actions on the Law side of the Exchequer (except Declarations and Pleas in Ejectment).
Certain Affidavits filed in the Plea Office.

Many portions of these Records were some years since partly destroyed by fire in a house in Fishamble-street, where the office was then kept; and other files were destroyed by an inundation of the Liffey after they had been removed to the Four Courts Building.

There are other Records connected with the Clerk of the Rules, the Clerk of the Alphabets, and Clerk and Signer of the Writs, Clerk of the Satisfactions, Examiners, &c.

The Judges of the Court ordered steps to be taken for reducing these Records into order, and Mr. James Ferguson was employed by the Treasury to classify and arrange them. So much of the work as he had time to perform before his untimely death was done in a most satisfactory manner. For instance, the Pleadings on the "Equity Side" were reduced into order, and made accessible to the public. The Records on the "Law Side" were cleansed, arranged in 163 sacks, and an inventory made of their contents: the Memoranda Rolls and other ancient Records in the Chief Remembrancer's Office were put in a clean and orderly state, and made easily accessible to the public, as were also the Communia Rolls from 1605 to 1714. The Rule and Order Books from

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1604 to 1673, and many other useful volumes, and now most of the documents, can be found without much delay and trouble. The contents of three vaults only remain to be removed, but the documents in them have been sorted into classes, and tied up in sacks, as we have already stated.

The Records on the Equity Side of the Exchequer.

All the Records of this Court were, by the statute 13 and 14 Vict., cap. 51, section 13, transferred into the custody of the Master of the Rolls in Ireland. They were formerly in the custody of the Chief Remembrancer of the Exchequer, and consist of—

Memoranda Rolls from the reign of Edward the First.
Inquisitions *post mortem*.
Inquisitions on the surrender of Monasteries.
Estates of Attainted Persons, and the value of Ecclesiastical Benefices.
Rolls of Certificates granted to Adventurer Soldiers in the time of the usurpation.
Rolls of Decrees of Commissioners in favour of innocent Papists.
Rolls of the reducement of Quit-rents in 1670.
Rolls of Certificates of persons transplanted in Connaught in the time of the usurpation.
Rolls of the Decisions of the Commissioners under the Act of Settlement.
The Red Book of the Exchequer, "Valor Beneficiorum."
Books of Entries on Sales pursuant to decrees of the Court of Exchequer.
Charges and Discharges filed by Suitors, with the Officers' reports thereon, from the year 1680.
Informations filed by Attorney-General *ex officio*.
Bills, Answers, and other Pleadings.
Rules, Orders, and Decrees, &c.

The greater portion of the above-mentioned Records are well arranged and accessible. They are lodged in various rooms in the Four Courts Building. Upon the abolition of the Equity Side of the Exchequer (by stat. 13 & 14 Vict. cap. 51), all the records belonging to the various departments of the Equity side, such as those of the Registrar and Assistant Registrar, the Filacer, the Secondary, &c., were transferred to the Master of the Rolls in Ireland.

CUSTOM HOUSE COLLECTION.

The Receipt and Revenue Side of the Exchequer.

The Records and documents belonging to this branch of the Exchequer were formerly in the custody of the Auditor-General of the Court of Exchequer, and consist principally of—

Books or Registers of Patents from the reign of Henry VII. to the time when that office was abolished in 1822.
Patents passed under the Commission of Defective Titles, temp. Charles I.
Decrees of the Commissioners for executing the said Act.
Certificates of transplanted persons under the same Act.
Kings' letters from the reign of Henry VIII.
Assignments and Powers of Attorney.

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Book of Indentures of Composition in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I.
Rent Roll of Queen Elizabeth.
Rent Roll of Monasteries, &c.
Rolls of the Civil and Military Establishments from the Reign of Elizabeth.
Surveys and Distributions of each county in Ireland, of the lands forfeited in 1641.
Surveys of lands not forfeited, &c.

These and several other very important Records, such as those of the late Clerk of the Pell and other officers of the Receipt of the Irish Exchequer, the Surveyor-General of Crown Lands and Honours in Ireland, the late Irish Treasury Board and the late Vice-Treasurer, and the Down Survey, were deposited, in the year 1832, in the south-western wing of the Custom House, having been brought from various offices in Dublin Castle and the Dome of the Four Courts Buildings. Some other documents of less importance, viz. :—

Population Returns,
Papers from the Excise Office,

have since been placed in the Custom House Repository.

The Admiralty.

The Records of the Court of Admiralty consist of—

Rule Books and Books of Orders of the Court in different suits from 1747 to the present time.
Stipulations on Bail Bonds from 1805 to 1809, signed by persons to obtain, *pendente lite*, the release of vessels or persons detained under process of Court.
Affidavits on which warrants have issued.
Warrants which have been executed.
Warrants of Attorney.
Warrants, called Fiats.
Appearances.
Notices.
Orders to act for suitors.
Allegations.
Petitions.
Libels.
Exceptions.
Monitions.
Sentences.
Rolls of Admission of Officers, &c.

Court of Prerogative.

The Records in the possession of the Deputy Registrar of the Court of Prerogative are—

Original Wills from about the year 1530.
Books of Entry or copies of such Wills from 1582.
Books of Entry of Administrations, and Marriage Licences.
Rule Books.
Pleadings and Depositions in Causes.
Books of Entries of Faculties granted to Clergymen to hold pluralities of livings, and to other persons for exercising the office of Public Notary.
Regal Visitation Books.

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The Record Tower, Dublin Castle.

In this Tower are deposited—

1. The Records of the late Irish Parliament, extending from the year 1634 to 1800, and embracing the following subjects :—

Accounts of various kinds.
Addresses to the Sovereign, Royal Family, Lord Lieutenant, &c.
Appeals.
Appointments.
Associations.
Bills and Original Paper Copies of Public Statutes.
Rolls of the Irish Parliament.
Certificates.
Charters.
Commissions.
Committee Books and Papers.
Journals of the Houses of Lords and Commons.
Letters.
Maps.
Plans.
Papers relating to Members of the House of Commons.
Original Minute Books of the two Houses of Parliament.
Original Orders of the two Houses of Parliament.
Peerage Claims.
Peerage Patent Petitions.
Reports.
Returns.
Speeches on the Opening of Parliament.
Council Office Copies of Letters and other communications from the Government in England.
Original Public Statute Rolls of the Irish Parliament.
Original Private Acts of the Irish Parliament.
Private Papers, such as Deeds, Leases, &c.
Suffering Loyalists' Books, &c.

2. State Papers or Records of the Council Office, from 1651 to ; consisting of—

Books of Entries of Civil Affairs.
Civil Petitions.
County Letters.
Dockets and Fiants.
Kings' and Queens' Letters.
Warrants.
Ecclesiastical matters.
Military papers.
Miscellaneous matters, Proclamations, &c.

3. Plea Rolls of the Courts of Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and Justices in Eyre, from 36 Henry III., an. 1252, to 45 Eliz., an. 1602, but not in sequence or in a perfect series; miscellaneous Plea Rolls, from Elizabeth to Charles II.; fragments of Plea Rolls, from Henry III. to Charles I.

4. Pipe Rolls of the Irish Exchequer, from 13 Henry III., an. 1228, to 13 George II., an. 1739, but not in a continuance of years; miscellaneous Accounts of different reigns.

5. Sheriffs' Accounts, with Writs and Receipts for Forfeited Recognizances.

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RECORD TREASURY BAY SIDE ELEVATION

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RECORD TREASURY BAY CENTRAL BLOCK SIDE ELEVATION

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RECORD TREASURY BAY CENTRAL BLOCK SIDE ELEVATION

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RECORD TREASURY BAY SIDE ELEVATION

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6. Miscellaneous Rolls, from Edward I. to Charles II.
7. Books and Orders of the Court of Exchequer, from 1623 to 1683.

In addition to these, all of which are public documents, and many of them belong to the series of Records at the Rolls Office, Queen's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer, there are also preserved in the Bermingham Tower the following Manuscript Collections:—

1. Lodge's Manuscripts (containing abstracts of Records, chiefly from the Chancery Rolls), which were purchased by the Government from his Representatives in 1778, and kept as State Papers in the Chief Secretary's Office.
2. Population Returns of 1821.
3. The Transcripts and Manuscript compilations of the Irish Record Commission from 1810 to 1830, sent by the Irish Government to the Bermingham Tower, when that Commission became extinct.

Appendix No. 3.

Elevations of Treasury Bays.

Appendix No. 4.

Page of Transfer Book.*

Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867.

Records to be removed from

Room.	Press.	Shelf.	Description of Documents.	Dimensions.			Destination in Record Treasury.		
				Length.	Depth.	Height.	Bay.	Shelf.	Sub-Number.

Appendix No. 5.

Delivery Sheet.

For the Public Record Office of Ireland.

Sent from the day of 186 .

	Load No.	Name of Bearer.	Description of Documents.	To be deposited in		
				Bay.	Shelf.	Sub-Number.

Deposited the above

* For the principle of this very useful form of Schedule the Deputy Keeper is indebted to John J. Bond, esq., Assistant Keeper, Public Record Office, London.

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Appendix No. 6.

Dublin.—Public Record Office, Custom House Buildings.

Table of Fees.

	£	s.	d.
1. For every Surround traced from the Down Survey, Trustees' Survey, or other Map, of whatever area, but never to exceed in the whole 10*s.*, . . . A Trace of each Parish is liable to a 10*s.* fee.	0	2	6
2. Searches in Down Survey, Trustees' Survey, or other Maps, per Map, ...	0	1	0
3. Searches in First Fruits, or other Records, in any single document, ...	0	1	0
Searches in any number of same series, . .	0	5	0
4. Copies of Conveyances of Quit, Crown, and Composition Rents, and of Crown Lands, per 10 George IV., c. 50, section 73. For every seventy-two words, .	0	1	0
5. Copies of all other Records, per 15 Vic., c. 99, section 14. For every ninety words, ...	0	0	4
6. For attendance of an Officer in Court, with any number of Records, per diem, in addition to travelling expenses incurred, ...	2	2	0
7. For Re-comparison and Re-attestation, half original fees.			

Appendix No. 7.

Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867.—Instructions by the Right Hon. the Master of the Rolls in Ireland, as to the Duties to be performed by the Officers employed in the Public Record Office.

1. The Deputy Keeper will direct and organize the transfer of the Documents—their arrangement, classification, and calendaring; will examine and certify copies of Records in the absence of the Assistant Deputy; will submit his annual report for the approval of the Master of the Rolls, on the 1st of December in each year; and will superintend all persons employed in the Public Record Office, and the general business of the office, subject to such directions as he shall from time to time receive from the Master of the Rolls.

2. The Assistant Deputy Keeper will examine and certify copies of Records; will see the Records replaced and the keys delivered to the persons in charge, at the closing of the office daily; will, to applicants for searches and inspection of Records, give all convenient information and assistance, and will act for the Deputy Keeper in his absence.

3. The Secretary will, under the directions of the Deputy Keeper, conduct the correspondence of the department; check and control the accounts of the office; and perform such duties connected with the transfer and calendaring of the Records and Documents as shall from time to time be required by the Deputy Keeper.

4. The Senior and Junior First Clerks will assist the Deputy and Assistant Deputy Keeper in examining copies of Records; and will, to applicants for searches and inspection of Records, give all convenient information and assistance; and such one of them as shall from time to

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time be appointed to that duty by the Deputy Keeper, will, in an Attendance Book, keep the accounts of the daily attendance and employment of the officers and servants, receive all cash for fees, and make all disbursements for wages of workmen, and other outgoings.

5. The Second Class Clerks and Junior Clerks will transcribe the Records of which copies may be required; and where any Record shall be of a difficult nature, requiring special knowledge, will obtain the assistance of the superior officers.

6. In the preparation for, and during, the transfer and arrangement of the Records, all the officers will perform such duties as shall from time to time be assigned to them by the Deputy Keeper.

General Instructions.

7. No officer or person employed in the Public Record Office shall act as a Record Agent for individuals.

8. No officer or person employed in the Public Record Office shall publish or make any use of any Record, or of knowledge acquired in the performance of his official duties, otherwise than for the discharge of those duties, except with the permission in writing of the Master of the Rolls.

9. Every officer when not engaged in the performance of the special duties above directed, will occupy himself under the directions of the Deputy Keeper; and the duties above prescribed will be liable to be altered from time to time, as the service of the department may require, and as may be directed by the Master of the Rolls.

Appendix No. 8.

Transfer Sheet.

Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867.

Chancery.

Records to be transferred from Repositories of Master ——.

Enumerator's Number.	Title of Cause or Matter.	Description of Box, Bundle, or Documents.	Dimensions.			Destination in Record Treasury.		
			Length.	Breadth.	Height.			
			Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Bay.	Shelf.	Sub-Number.

[The dark lines above indicate the red and the lighter represent the blue in the forms in use.]

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APPENDIX No. 9.

INSTRUCTIONS for preparing the RECORDS in the REPOSITORIES of MASTER —— for TRANSFER to the PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE.

For general description of contents see printed paper entitled "Contents of Record Repositories."

Mr. —— one of the chief clerks will conduct the preparation for transfer, with the assistance of ——, who will perform the manual labour of attaching labels, bundling documents, &c. Mr. —— will commence by labelling with the larger label, having the blank panel at the right hand side, in consecutive numerical order, the several boxes, placing the labels as nearly as the lettering on the boxes will admit, in the middle of the front, at the bottom, so that all the labels may appear in line when the boxes shall he placed on the shelves.

When all the boxes are labelled, Mr. —— will enter on the transfer sheets, in consecutive numerical order, the several matters (except "Destinations") indicated at head of the columns, copying the titles of the causes and matters from the lettering, in the following form, as nearly as may be, for example:—

Hart *v.* Dixson ;
Williams and others *v.* Kane ;
Sidney (Executors of) *v.* Sproule and others ;
Cunningham Minors ;

taking care that the leading capital letters be boldly and distinctly written. In the "Description" column the leading word descriptive of the Record will in all cases be placed first, as—

Deeds, Box.
Interrogatories, Bundles.
Papers (misc.), Bundle.

These entries will be written on the alternate lines coloured blue. As the transfer sheets are filled up, they will be cut into slips along the red lines. These slips will be distributed into separato heaps, alphabetically, according to the leading letters of the titles. When all the boxes shall have been thus labelled, and entered on the transfer sheets, the slips will be arranged in detailed dictionary order, and will then be pasted into the Transfer Book in such order. The Transfer Book will then be handed to the Deputy Keeper, who will fill up the column of "Destinations," and hand back the book to Mr. ——.

Mr. —— will then see the small labels corresponding to the destinations so given, pasted on the blank panel of each larger label, and the boxes will be ready for transfer. A warrant will then be procured authorizing the transfer of Master —— Records, and the transfer of the boxes will proceed according to further instructions, which will be given by the Deputy Keeper.

APPENDIX No. 10.

WARRANT for the REMOVAL to the PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE of IRELAND of the RECORDS, BOOKS, and DOCUMENTS, deposited in the RECORD REPOSITORIES hereinafter mentioned, in the care of EDWARD LITTON, Esq., one of the Masters in Ordinary of the Court of Chancery of Ireland.

Whereas the Records, Books, and Documents, now deposited in a certain muniment room on the north side of the basement story, and in certain presses in the Court and Examiner's Office of the said Master,

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and in a certain muniment room adjoining said Examiner's Office on the east side thereof, on the first floor, and in two certain muniment rooms on the south side of the corridor of the second floor of that block of the new buildings, at the rere of the Four Courts, at present occupied by the Master in Ordinary and Taxing Masters of the Court of Chancery, under the care and charge of the said Edward Litton, esq., are by the "Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867," committed to the custody of the Master of the Rolls in Ireland for the time being, for the purposes of said Act. And whereas, it appears to me to be to the public advantage that the said Records, Books, and Documents, should be removed to the Public Record Office. Now I, the Right Honorable John Edward Walsh, Master of the Rolls in Ireland, do hereby, under and by virtue of the provisions of the "Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867," and of all other powers and authorities enabling me in this behalf, order and direct the said Edward Litton, esq., to allow all and every the Records, Books, and Documents, in the said rooms and repositories now being, and also all such Calendars, Indexes, Repertories, and keys thereof, as may be in his charge, to be removed by Samuel Ferguson, esq., the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records in Ireland, and his assistants, from their said present places of custody, and deposited in the said Public Record Office, there to remain, under the charge of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records in Ireland for the time being, until further order, provided that the said Edward Litton, esq., shall retain, and also shall be at liberty from time to time, to recall and keep for such time as may be requisite, and no longer, such of the said Records, Books, and Documents, as shall be necessary for the transacting of the current business of the Court and Office of the said Edward Litton, esq., and shall deliver and redeliver the same, from time to time, when and as they shall cease to be so necessary into the said Public Record Office as aforesaid.

Dated at the Rolls Office, Dublin, this 16th day of January, 1868.

(Signed), JOHN E. WALSH,
Master of the Rolls in Ireland.

APPENDIX No. 11.

WARRANT for the REMOVAL to the PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE of IRELAND of the RECORDS, BOOKS, and DOCUMENTS, deposited in the RECORD REPOSITORIES hereinafter mentioned, in the care of WILLIAM BROOKE, Esq., one of the Masters in Ordinary of the Court of Chancery of Ireland.

Whereas the Records, Books, and Documents, now deposited in a certain muniment room on the south side of the first-floor corridor, and also in a certain other muniment room on the south side of the second-floor corridor, and also in certain presses in the court of the said William Brooke, esq., in that block of the new buildings at the rere of the Four Courts, at present occupied by the Masters in Ordinary and Taxing Masters of the Court of Chancery, under the care and charge of the said William Brooke, esq., are by the "Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867," committed to the custody of the Master of the Rolls in Ireland, for the time being, for the purposes of the said

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Act. And whereas, it appears to me that it will be to the public advantage that the said Records, Books, and Documents, should be removed to the Public Record Office. Now I, the Right Honorable John Edward Walsh, Master of the Rolls in Ireland, do hereby, under and by virtue of the provisions of the "Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867," and of all other powers and authorities enabling me in this behalf, order and direct the said William Brooke, esq., to allow all and every the Records, Books, and Documents, in the said rooms and repositories now being, and also all such Calendars, Indexes, Repertories, and keys thereof, as may be in his care, to be removed by Samuel Ferguson, esq., the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records in Ireland, and his assistants, from their said present places of custody, and deposited in the said Public Record Office, there to remain under the charge of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records in Ireland, for the time being, until further order, provided that the said William Brooke, esq., shall retain, and also shall be at liberty from time to time, to recall and keep for such time as may be requisite, and no longer, such of the said Records, Books, and Documents, as shall be necessary for the transacting of the current business of the Court and Office of the said William Brooke, esq., and shall deliver and redeliver the same, from time to time, when and as they shall cease to be so necessary, into the said Public Record Office as aforesaid.

Dated at the Rolls Office, Dublin, this 16th day of January, 1868.

(Signed), JOHN E. WALSH,

Master of the Rolls in Ireland.

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Appendix No. 12.

Form of Recall and Redelivery Docket.

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND) ACT, 1867.

RECALLED

To Repositories of Master
of 18

Number.	Description.	Place in Record Treasury.		
		Bay.	Shelf.	Sub-Number.

Redelivered into Public Record Office,

of 18

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND) ACT, 1867.

FOR REDELIVERY

From Repositories of Master
into Public Record Office.

Number.	Description.	Place in Record Treasury.		
		Bay.	Shelf.	Sub-Number.

Not being now necessary for the current business of Master ordered to be delivered into the Public Record Office until further order.

Dated of 18

Received,
of 18

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND) ACT, 1867.

FOR RECALL

To Repositories of Master
of 18

Number.	Description.	Place in Record Treasury.		
		Bay.	Shelf.	Sub-Number.

Being necessary for the current business of Master ordered to be retained until further order.

Received,

of 18

APPENDIX No. 13.

FORM of RETAINER and DELIVERY DOCKET.

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND) ACT, 1867.

RETAINED

In Repositories of Master
of 18

Number.	Description.	Destination in Record Treasury.		
		Bay.	Shelf.	Sub-Number.

Delivered into Public Record Office,

of 18

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND) ACT, 1867.

FOR DELIVERY

From Repositories of Master
into Public Record Office.

Number.	Description.	Destination in Record Treasury.		
		Bay.	Shelf.	Sub-Number.

Not being now necessary for the current business of Master ordered to be delivered into the Public Record Office until further order.

Dated of 18

Received,
of 18

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND) ACT, 1867.

RETAINED

In Repositories of Master
of 18

Number	Description.	Destination in Record Treasury.		
		Bay.	Shelf.	Sub-Number.

Being necessary for the current business of Master ordered to be retained until further order.

Dated of 18

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APPENDIX No. 14.

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND) ACT, 1867.—TABLE of FEES chargeable at the PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE.

	£	s.	d.
For authenticated copies, per folio of 72 words—			
Documents to the end of the reign of George II., .	0	1	0
Documents after the reign of George II., . .	0	0	6
For inspecting any Document, Book, or Roll, . .	0	1	0

(No charge for inspecting Index Books in Search Room.)

When applications are made for copies or inspections by any public department, the fees on which, if paid, would be a charge on the public, the foregoing fees are not to be charged.

The Deputy Keeper of the Records may, at his discretion, permit inspections to be made without charge, on a certificate that such inspections are for an exclusively literary purpose.

For attendance in any Court with a Record, . .	2	2	0

The officer to be paid his reasonable expenses.

No record to be taken out of the Public Record Office without the written permission of the Master of the Rolls.

The Fees chargeable at late Landed Estates Record Office, Custom House, continue as heretofore until further order.

(Signed,) JOHN E. WALSH, *M.R.*

APPENDIX No. 15.

LETTER from the DEPUTY KEEPER to the Right Hon. the MASTER of the ROLLS.

Public Record Office,
22nd Nov., 1867.

SIR,—I beg leave to report for your Honor's information that, on the 19th inst., I, on your Honor's behalf, received from the Commissioners of Public Works, through their architect, Mr. Owen, possession of the Public Record Office Building.

Your Honor is aware that part of the Record House has been temporarily allocated as a Court and offices for the Vice-Chancellor of Ireland; and that the large apartment designed for the Public Room of the Record Office has been fitted up as his Lordship's Court, and is now so occupied.

Your Honor is also aware that, so soon as the Records now deposited in the Rolls Record Room shall have been transferred to the Record Treasury here, the Rolls Record Room is to be converted permanently into a court and offices for the Vice-Chancellor, so as to leave the whole of this building applicable to the purposes for which it has been erected.

The Rolls Record Room contains 1,408 shelves of Bills and Answers, each shelf containing several stones weight of parchment. There are, in other parts of the Rolls Office, and in the Equity Exchequer Repositories, 1,007 shelves of the same class of documents, all of which ought to be arranged in one uniform classification in the new Record Treasury.

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The internal fittings of the Record Treasury are completed only along portion of each side of the hall. They have been designed for mutual support from end to end of the building. The incomplete condition in which they now are leaves them without abutment at their unfinished ends. There exists nothing to support the lateral pressure save a light iron lattice, unsupported by any continuation of joists or longitudinal bearers. One of these end lattices has already, from the weight of the floors and fittings on the finished side, sprung in the opposite direction, to the extent of an inch and a-half; and, if this deflection were increased by another inch, the floors would necessarily come down. I estimate the weight of the Bills and Answers at about 100 tons. I would not take the responsibility of placing so great a weight on the fittings in their present state. Independently of this objection to the building in its present state, there exist other considerations, with which your Honor has been already acquainted, and which I do not here detail, making it inexpedient to proceed with the transfer of the Bills and Answers till further preparation shall be made for their reception. The obvious remedy for all these inconveniences is to complete the fittings. Their completion would, by distributing the pressure from wall to wall, ensure the stability of the whole, and would afford the opportunity of making adjustments for special classes of the Records requiring particular conditions of space and light.

It is eminently desirable that these fittings should be completed before the process of transfer begins, as the presence of workmen in the hall at a future period would be extremely inconvenient. Until the difficulties above indicated are removed, I cannot transfer the Bills and Answers so as to place the Rolls Record Room at the disposal of the Board of Works. Until that room shall be converted into a court and offices for the Vice-Chancellor, the public must necessarily be debarred from the enjoyment of the Reading Room intended to be provided for them in this building, and searches must continue to be made, as heretofore, in different localities.

I would therefore respectfully request your Honor to apply to the Commissioners of Public Works to proceed with the completion of the internal fittings of the Record Treasury, with such modifications as may be approved of by their Architect and the Deputy Keeper.

I have the honour to be, sir, your very obedient servant,

(Signed,) SAMUEL FERGUSON, Deputy Keeper.

To the Right Hon. the Master of the Rolls.

APPENDIX No. 16.

LETTER from the DEPUTY KEEPER to the Right Hon. the MASTER of the ROLLS.

Public Record Office, Dublin,
7th April, 1868.

SIR,—In reference to my conversation with your Honor yesterday on the necessity of removing the contents of the Rolls Record Repository, so as to make room for the construction of a Court for the Vice-Chancellor, and thereby place the apartment now used as Vice-Chancellor's Court at the disposal of this office for the purposes contemplated by the Act, I beg leave to state—

I am able, and would undertake, with the present staff and fittings, to transfer the Rolls collection to a place of temporary deposit on the

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existing shelves in the Treasury here, with safety to the Records and means of reference and access to them, by the month of August next.

But as the measure of safety in point of removal from combustible matter would not much exceed that of their present place of deposit, and in point of non-contact with injurious substances would not equal it, and as the means of reference and access would be very much inferior to the existing facilities, and such as could not be continued with credit to the Department, I would not wish to enter on such a transfer without a distinct assurance that it will not be regarded by the Executive authorities as other than a temporary measure to meet the exigencies of a particular and pressing public necessity.

Until the structure at the right-hand side of the Treasury Hall is stayed, as mentioned in a former letter to your Honor on that subject,* I would not take the responsibility of loading it, either temporarily or permanently, with the Rolls collection, but would place the collection in the nearer bays on the left-hand side, to be removed, as soon as conveniently can be, to its permanent place of deposit on the curial side of the Hall, as I shall be able to get the fittings on that side adjusted for its satisfactory reception.

In these adjustments I contemplate reducing the quantity of inflammable matter to a minimum, and giving special accommodation to that class of documents the exceptional size of which prevents their convenient reception in the present shelves.

I would, therefore, request your Honor to take such steps as may be necessary to insure the department against being hereafter held to the temporary arrangement now contemplated; for which purpose I would humbly suggest to your Honor that, if this communication meet your Honor's approval, it might with advantage be communicated to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury.

I am, sir, your very obedient servant,

(Signed,) SAMUEL FERGUSON,
Deputy Keeper of the Records.

To the Right Hon. the Master
of the Rolls.

APPENDIX No. 17.

LETTER from SECRETARY of TREASURY to the Right Hon. the MASTER of the ROLLS, dated 13th May, 1868.

(Copy.)

Treasury Chambers, 13th May, 1868.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 25th ultimo, transmitting a communication from the Deputy Keeper of the Records relative to the necessity of removing the contents of the Rolls Record Repository, I am desired by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to state that they approve of the removal of the Records referred to as a temporary measure until they can be finally arranged in a suitable manner.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) GEO. A. HAMILTON.

The Master of the Rolls, Ireland.

* 22nd November, 1867.

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Appendix No. 18.

Plan of Presses in Lower Rolls Record Room.

Appendix No. 19.

Plan of Mezzanine Presses in Lower Rolls Record Room.

Appendix No. 20.

Plan of Upper Rolls Record Room.

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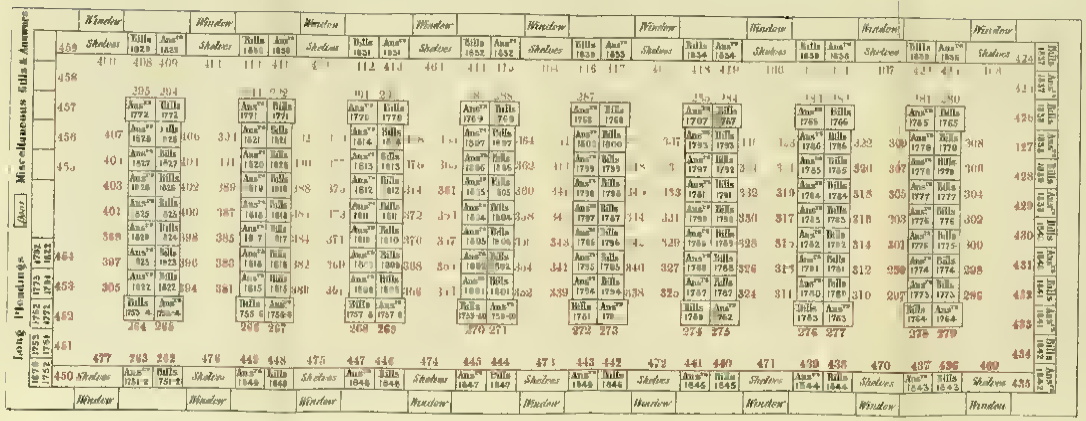
Plan of the Lower Record Room Rolls Office,

Four Courts

Appendix No. 18



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Plan of the Shelves over the Presses in the Lower Record Room, Rolls Office,

Four Courts

Mutilated	Mutilated	Mutilated	Ans^r Pleas^s 1545 to 1579	Ans^r Pleas^s 1653 to 1589	Ans^r Pleas^s 1586 to 1589	Ans^r Pleas^s 1603 to 1608	Ans^r Pleas 1611 to 1614	Ans^r Pleas^s 1617 to 1619	Ans^r Pleas 1620 to 1627	Ans^r Pleas^s 1623	Ans^r Pleas 1625	Ans^r Pleas 1621	Ans^r Pleas 1628	Ans^r Pleas^s 1630	Ans^r Pleas^s 1632	Ans^r Pleas^s 1633
Pleadings	Pleadings	Pleadings	1579 to 1583	1589 to 1594	1586 to 1600	1603 to 1611	1615 to 1617	1619	1622	1624	1626	1627	1629	1631	1632 to 1654	1634
174 175	176 177	178 179	180 181	182 183	184 185	186 187	188 189	190 191	192 193	194 195	196 197	198 199	200 201	202 203	204 205	206 207

Left side (from top): 261, 260, 259, 258, 257, 256, 255, 254, 253, 252

Right side (from top): 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217

251 250	249 248	247 246	245 244	243 242	241 240	239 238	237 236	235 234	233 232	231 230	229 228	227 226	225 224	223 222	221 220	219 218
Bills 1687 1689	Bills 1685 1686	Bills 1684	Bills 1683 1683	Bills 1681	Bills 1672 1680	Bills 1678 1679	Bills 1676 1677	Bills 1674 1675	Bills 1672 1673	Bills 1670 1671	Bills 1666 1679	Bills 1664 1665	Bills 1662 1663	Bills 1660 1661	Bills 1658 1659	Bills 1657
Ans^r 1687 1688	Ans^r 1685 1686	Ans^r 1684	Ans^r 1683 1683	Ans^r 1681	Ans^r 1679 1680	Ans^r 1678 1679	Ans^r 1676 1677	Ans^r 1674 1675	Ans^r 1672 1673	Ans^r 1670 1671	Ans^r 1666 1670	Ans^r 1664 1665	Ans^r 1662 1663	Ans^r 1660 1661	Ans^r 1658 1659	Ans^r 1657

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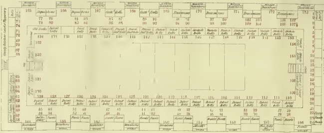
Plan of the Upper Record Room Rolls Office,

1st Level



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APPENDIX No. 21.

EXTRACT from REPORT of J. J. DIGGES LA TOUCHE, Esq., Assistant Deputy Keeper, dated 30th November, 1868, of Proceedings in preparation for TRANSFER and REMOVAL of RECORDS of REGISTRARS' OFFICE, CHANCERY.

This collection was kept in 128 lock-up presses in three rooms called Mr. Buchanan's Room, Mr. Smith's Room, and the Writing-Clerks' Office, situated in the east wing of the east quadrangle of the Four Courts, and was in very fair condition and almost uninjured by damp. I have separated these Records in this Report for greater convenience of detail into the two great classes into which, from their nature, they may be said to divide themselves, viz., "Entry Books" (which I shall treat first of), and "Original Documents," both bound and unbound.

Entry Books.

I shall divide these into Court Books and Office Books according as they were kept in Court or in the office of the Registrar, although in earlier times the distinction between the two was not very strictly adhered to.

The Court Books consist of the following series, viz.:—

Motions Hearings,	from 1669	to 1730,	in	56	vols.
Motion,	,, 1730	,, 1848,	,,	279	,,
Chancery Motions,	,, 1835	,, 1850,	,,	4	,,
Chancery Hearings,	,, 1729	,, 1848,	,,	99	,,
Rolls Hearings,	,, 1802	,, 1848,	,,	19	,,
Chancery Petition Hearings,	,, 1843	,, 1850,	,,	3	,,
Rolls Petition Hearings,	,, 1835	,, 1848,	,,	25	,,

I purpose now to go through the above list *seriatim*, stating any particulars that may be useful for the purpose hereafter of more easy reference thereto, and the better understanding its details. These books are all, without exception, in very good condition, and their different series are very perfect; they were all kept and written in Court from day to day, being rough minutes from which several of the "Office" books were made up.

Motions Hearings

commence on 6th June, 1669, and end, for Hearings, on 28th April, 1729, and for Motions on 16th May, 1730, from which dates respectively this series is carried on in the two separate series of "Hearing Books" and "Motion Books," and contains the Court Minutes of Motions and Hearings in both Chancery and Rolls Courts. Volume (No. 15) 1681–1682, is missing. Each volume has an Alphabetical Index to the names of causes. (*Vide* also the "Order Books.")

Motion Books

commence (*vide infra*) on 16th May, 1730, and contain the Court Minutes of Interlocutory Motions before the Chancellor and Master of the Rolls up to 12th January, 1835, from which date this series contains the Rolls Court Minutes alone; a separate book being kept for the Chancery Minutes, called the Chancery Motion Books, indexed as above.

Chancery Motion Books

commence 12th January, 1835, and contain Minutes of Motions in the Court of Chancery, indexed as above.

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Chancery Hearing Books

contain Court Minutes of Hearings in the Court of Chancery from 28th April, 1729, indexed as above.

Rolls Hearing Books

commence 2nd July, 1802, at which time by 41st George III., cap. 25, the Master of the Rolls was first made a Judicial Officer, and contain the Rolls Court Minutes of Hearings on Decrees; previous to this Act the Master of the Rolls only heard Decrees *pro confesso*, and on demurrers and exceptions. Indexed as above.

Chancery Petition Hearing Books

contain the Court Minutes on Hearings of Petitions in Chancery and only commence 19th April, 1843, although the 9th General Order of 29th November, 1834, ordered that a Hearing Book in each Court be specially kept for Petitions. This series seems to have been continued from the Chancery Motion Books. Indexed as above.

Rolls Petition Hearing Books

commence 12th January, 1835, being kept in pursuance of the above-mentioned General Order for the Petition hearings in the Rolls Court. Indexed as above. The Office Books consist of the following series, viz.:

Order or Full Entry Books,	from	1588	to 1848	in 529	vols.
Rule Books,	„	1827	„ 1848	„ 41	„
Petition Rule Books,	„	1823	„ 1837	„ 59	„
Pleadings Books (quarto),	„	1717	„ 1808	„ 15	„
Pleadings Books (folio),	„	1639	„ 1835	„ 64	„
Appearances,	„	1745	„ 1845	„ 47	„
Attachment Books,	„	1739	„ 1847	„ 39	„
Draft Books,	„	1833	„ 1851	„ 16	„
Day (Cash) Books,	„	1829	„ 1834	„ 12	„
Docket Books for Side Bar Rules,	„	1837	„ 1850	„ 91	„
Bespeak Books,	„	1843	„ 1850	„ 40	„

Order or Full Entry Books

commence on 20th October, 1588, and the first volume ends on 7th January, 1589; then there is a gap to the year 1602; then to 1609; then to 1620; and from thence the gaps appear comparatively few. From 1699, in which year the numbering of the volumes consecutively first commences, volumes 15 (circa 1712), 103 (circa 1746), 122 (circa 1755), and 417 (circa 1847), are alone missing. This series of books contains the Orders of the Court of Chancery made out *in extenso* in the Registrars' Office from the minutes taken in Court; unfortunately instead of being thus made out in the order in which they were originally made, the practice was not to make the full entries until such time as the party bespoke a copy of the order, so that an order of 1750 may appear in any Order or Full Entry Book of any year subsequent, which makes searching the books a very tedious and unsatisfactory process, although each volume from 1638 has an alphabetical index to the titles of the causes in which the orders are made. Of late years it has been the practice to enter in the margin of the minute of the order in the Motions, Hearings, or Petition Motions or Hearings Book a memorandum stating the number of the Order or Full Entry Book in which the order

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in question is made out *in extenso*, a practice which I need scarcely say facilitates searching. The shortest way to search for an order to which you have not a correct full reference, is to search first the Court Book, in which the original minute was made, and thence refer to the Full Entry Book. Up to 1628, as also certain volumes of 1628–30, 1629, 1630–31, and 1634–36, are not strictly "Order or Full Entry Books" in the modern sense of the term, being both Court and Office Books in one, as they contain entries of Appearances, Pleadings, Motions, and Rules as well as Orders, and up to the year 1623 they contain, in addition, the returns of Writs in the Court of Chancery. The original title to volume 1609 best expresses their contents: "A Register Booke of the Actes and Entries in His Mãties High Courte of Chauncerie, as alsoe of the returne of Writtes in the saide Courte."

It would thus seem that the earliest Pleadings Books are a continuation of the earlier so-called Order Books, and that it was the habit in the latter portion of the sixteenth and earlier portion of the seventeenth centuries, certainly from about 1588 to 1636, to enter appearances and pleadings with the Registrar in the one general book, along with the Court Minutes; after which they were entered in a book by themselves, the earlier Pleadings Books containing appearances also. The practice of entering appearances with the Registrar seems to have been given up about 1671, and to have been renewed in the year 1745, as the General Order of 9th July, 1745, states, "according to the ancient practice of the Court."

The Side Bar Orders were kept in a separate book, but in the same series with the other orders, from 1846 (volume 394).

Rule Books

commence on 13th November, 1827, and contain the Minutes of Rules on motions moved by the Six Clerks, and since 1836 by solicitors in both the Rolls and Chancery Courts, and included Side Bar Rules. They were before 1827 entered daily in the Motion Books, after the other ordinary motions of the day. There is an Index in each volume to the titles of the causes.

Petition Rule Books

commence 5th November, 1823, and contain the Orders and Fiats on Petitions in both Chancery and Rolls Courts, the original Fiats being in all cases written on the original Petitions. Indexed as above.

Pleadings Books (Quarto).

This series, or rather the volumes of it that are now in existence, range from 1717 to 1808, and even between these dates there are many gaps. It is likely that these books were not very carefully preserved, as they were merely rough list books of the Pleadings under a Bill which were entered with the Registrar, and sent from day to day to the Rolls Office to be filed, where the lists were signed; corresponding books to these were kept in the Rolls Office, styled "Answer Books."

Pleadings Books

contain the entries of Pleadings under a Bill entered with the Registrar, with the Six Clerk's name, and title of the cause, and run from 23rd January, 1639, to 1835, in which latter year, by 34th General Order of

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November, 1834, pleadings were no longer to be entered with the Registrar. Some of the earlier volumes contain appearances, viz. :—the volumes of 1639–1644, 1665–67, and 1670–71; and attachments, viz. the vols. 1665 to 1683. Amongst the earlier so-called "Ordor Books" are entries both of pleadings and appearances (*vide* "Order Books"). Prior to 1718 there seem to be several gaps, and from that date to 1835 the volumes are consecutively numbered, and vol. No. 37 (1806–7) is alone wanting. From 1670 each volume has an Alphabetical Index to the names of causes therein.

Appearance Books

are the record of appearances entered with the Registrar in pursuance of Rule, 9th July, 1745—"That all appearances be entered with the Register, according to the ancient practice of the Court" (*vide* Order and Pleading Books). These books are the duplicates of the Appearance Books kept in the Six Clerks' Offices up to 20th October, 1836, and after that date by the 10th General Order, 10th October, 1836, under the Act 6th & 7th William IV., cap. 74, transferred to the Writ and Appearance Office, and appearances entered by solicitors instead of the Six Clerks. The practice of entering appearances with the Registrar was discontinued on 11th January, 1845, pursuant to the 5th General Order, 3rd January, 1845. Indexed as above.

Two small quarto volumes, from 17th May, 1794, to 9th February, 1809, contain parliamentary appearances, pursuant to Act 7th George II., cap. 14, which appearances are afterwards entered along with the other appearances.

Attachment Books

commence 9th June, 1739, and contain entries of attachments issued, with the title of the cause, against whom they are issued, the reason why, and the Six Clerk's or solicitor's name. They are indexed in the title of the cause. Volume 29 (*circa* 1828) is missing. Attachments are entered in the Pleading Books from 1665 to 1683, but I cannot find where the Attachment Books between 1683 and 1739 are; perhaps, as with appearances, the practice of entering them died out until 1739; but there is no statement to that effect, and the first Attachment Book appears to be merely the continuation of a series, although it is numbered Volume I.

Draft Books.
Day (Cash) Books.
Docket Books for Side Bar Rules.
Bespeak Books.

These last four series come under the head of Private Office Books, the Draft Books containing a daily list of the drafts signed by the Registrar, and the Day Books being the journals of the cash received for fees. The Side Bar Docket Books are the Bespeak Books for Side Bar Orders, and the Bespeak Books contain the orders for copies bespoke by solicitors.

All the foregoing series of books have been placed in Bay 1 M of the Record Treasury, in the chronological order of their different series, and are so entered in the Transfer Books, which thus form a complete index thereto.

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Original Documents (both bound and unbound),

form the other class into which, for the purposes of my Report, I have divided this collection, and contain the following :—

Lords' Orders (1st May, 1809, to 2nd Nov., 1848),		1 vol.
Decrees, . .	1715 to 1834, .	364 „
Decrees, . .	1835 „ 1848 (2nd series),	76 „
Petitions, . .	1700 „ 1843, .	1,001 bundles.
Petitions, . .	1843 „ 1848, .	55 vols.
Reports, . .	1715 „ 1843, .	668 bundles.
Reports, . .	1843 „ 1848, .	58 vols.
Accounts, . .	1831 „ 1843, .	154 bundles.
Accounts, . .	1843 „ 1848, .	95 vols.
Consents, &c. .	1740 „ 1843, .	345 bundles.
Consents, &c. .	1843 „ 1848, .	23 vols.
Masters' Certificates,	1843 „ 1848, .	11 „
Exceptions, .	1777 „ 1843, .	22 bundles.
Exceptions, .	1843 „ 1848, .	3 vols.
Writs of Attachment, &c.	1748 (?) 1848, .	4 „
Commissions of Perambulation and Award,	1682 „ 1848.	
Depositions, .	1681 „ 1848.	
Exhibits.		

The unbound portion of the above runs from the earliest times to the 19th April, 1843, when all classes of Records were bound by order of the Lord Chancellor, Sir E. Sugden (the present Lord St. Leonards). These Records are in general written upon paper, doubled up twice, and tied in bundles, according to their year and the initial letter of their cause. Prior to 1750 the different series are very irregular (many gaps occurring), but from that date they may be said to be very fairly regular; and I have no doubt that, when they are all carefully gone through and collated, many chasms that at present seem to exist will disappear. The different series are now being cleaned, flattened out, pressed, and put into portfolios, which will defend them from dust, and enable them to be preserved in the same manner as those which are bound.

Binding would have been much more expensive, and as some of these Records were written up to the very edge of the paper, it would have encroached upon the writing. Some of the earlier ones, also, were in too tender and friable a condition to bear binding, while they will be preserved perfectly in portfolios. In this Report they are treated of exactly as they came from the Registrars' office, as it will be some months yet before the collating, &c., can be completed. Prior to 1843 (Decrees excepted) there are no Indices. All the bound portion of this class has been placed in Bay 1 M, and the rest, with the exception of the Petitions, down to the end of letter I (1843) in Bay 1 N. In entering these unbound Records in the Transfer Books, care has been taken to enter the several bundles in chronological order under their initial letters, so that they may prove practical Indices for office use.

Lords' Orders.

This volume is entitled "Lords' Original Orders," and contains the Orders of the House of Lords in Irish Chancery Appeal cases, signed by the Clerk of Parliament. The volume is indexed under the titles of the causes.

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Decrees

are bound in two series, the first running from about the year 1750 (there being but a few Decrees prior to that date—the earliest, of 1715) to 12th January, 1835. Each volume contains Decrees under the one initial letter in chronological order, and has an Index to the titles of Decrees it contains: the volumes under each initial letter are numbered consecutively in a separate series. These Decrees are made up according to the old practice, when the Pleadings, &c., in the cause were set out at full length or nearly so. There are three (and I think there ought to be four) volumes of Decrees belonging to this series, under various letters and of various dates, which, I presume, were omitted when the rest were bound. I give their titles here—D, G, J, K, O, Vol. I., 1829–32; Q, Y, Vol. I., 1757–1829; and P, R, S, W, Vol. II., 1827–34. I presume there must have been a Vol. I. unless "Vol. II." is a mistake in the lettering. The second series commences on 12th January, 1835, and the Decrees in it contain, in pursuance of the 132nd General Order of November, 1834, merely a short statement of the case, with the dates of the Pleadings, &c., in addition to the curial or ordering part of the Decree, and are bound in chronological order according to the dates on which the Decrees were signed. An Alphabetical Index to the titles is attached to each volume. To both series there is a separate general Index to the titles of the Decrees. It may be mentioned here that these Decrees are all enrolled amongst the Records of the Rolls Office, and that the enrolments go back as far as the 28th Henry VIII., to which enrolments there is a Repertory made by the late Record Commissioners, and a perfect Index both of the names and places mentioned therein.

Petitions.

The earliest bundles of these are—1696–1717, letter L; 1700–4, C; and 1700–42, Q, V, and Y—but the earliest of some letters is in the year 1750. It will be impossible to state with certainty whether even the above dates are the earliest that exist until all the bundles of Records from the Registrars' Office shall be opened and collated. The original fiat of the Chancery Judge is written in all cases on the Petitions themselves, so that they are in a double sense Records. Some of the earlier bundles have suffered much at one end from damp, as if they had stood on their ends in water (the mark of which can be plainly traced thereon) and suffered to dry, and the damp has eaten away a part completely, and rendered portion of the rest very friable; but laying them flat in portfolios will, I have no doubt, prove the best way of preserving them from further decay. From the year 1840 there is a daily list, kept alphabetically, of the Petitions filed. Prior to the time (19th April, 1843) when these documents were bound, if you require to see a Petition, you must search the bundle of its particular initial letter and year.

Under this system of keeping Records in bundles, under their initial letter and year, it must be borne in mind that there not being a bundle for any particular year and letter may only arise from no document having been filed in that year in that particular initial letter. This remark applies equally to all the Records of the Registrars' Office thus kept in bundles.

Reports

are written on all sizes of paper, and contain amongst them all the Ac-

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counts prior to 1831, except two bundles, viz., B 1774 and M 1821, together with the following various documents :—

Masters' Certificates.
Accountant-General's Certificates.
Consents.
Submissions.
Awards.
Releases (from Recognizances).
Cases (sent from Chancery for the opinion of the Common Law Courts).
Writs of Injunction, Sequestration, and Attachment.
Masters' Returns.
Articles of Impeachment of the Credibility of Witnesses.
Articles in support of Credibility of Witnesses.
Judges' Certificates.
Opinions of Six Clerks on points submitted to them.
Petitions.

It would thus seem that along with the Reports are mixed many documents that one would not expect to find under that head, and *that* to a much greater extent than would be accounted for by their going astray, though that may account for some ; and I believe it was the practice in the Registrars' Office to put all heterogeneous documents that were not sufficiently numerous to form a class by themselves amongst the Reports. (*Vide* "Consents" on this point.)

There are only three bundles of Reports prior to 1750, viz., A, 1746–61 ; B, 1715–49 ; and C, 1737–49 ; from which date they seem to be almost without a gap. There is a daily alphabetical list of them from November, 1844.

Accounts.

The series under this head commences in 1831, there being two bundles prior to that date, and the rest being kept along with the Reports (*vide supra*). From January, 1835, there is a daily list of the Accounts filed and the balances due thereon, with an Alphabetical Index.

Consents, Submissions, and Awards.

These three are kept under the one head of "Consents," and are in bundles under their initial letters, from 1740 to 1843; prior to 1800 they are very irregular, and contain, like the Reports, several documents beside the three usually included, viz. :—

Commissions for Minors to elect Guardians.
Masters' Certificates.
Orders for Reference.
Petitions.
Writs of Sequestration.

There is a daily Alphabetical List of them from November, 1844.

Masters' Certificates.

Prior to April, 1843, there is no separate series of them, but I think they will be found preserved among the Reports and Consents.

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Exceptions,

of which there are very few, run from 1777, which is the earliest date I have been able to find; some of them are written on parchment.

Note.—The last six classes of documents, from 19th April, 1843, are bound in volumes according to the sequence of their dates, each volume having an Alphabetical Index to the titles of the causes. Among the series of bound Consents, there is a volume lettered "Miscellaneous," which contains various documents, of various dates subsequent to April, 1843, namely, Consents, Reports, Petitions, Awards, Masters' Certificates, Accounts, Commissions to examine married women, and Exceptions. This volume is indexed like the rest, and appears to contain such documents as were overlooked when the different series were being bound.

Writs of Attachment, &c.

Under this head, I have included all manner of Writs that were returned to this Office, such as Writs of Attachment, Injunction, Sequestration, &c., all which are written on parchment, and with the exception of the four volumes mentioned below, are utterly unarranged, both as regards date and title, and are contained in three sacks; it would, I submit, be a waste of time to arrange them, as they can be of no practical use. Neither their title, nature, or date, can be ascertained without reading them through. It must be borne in mind that the only Writs in this Office are those on which a return has been made. The first date amongst those which are bound, is 28th June, 1748, but there are really only a few bound prior to April, 1843. The volumes are indexed, and the Writs arranged in the order of their respective dates.

Commissions of Perambulation and Award, and the Returns thereto.

These are written for the most part on parchment, and include, in many cases, Maps. The earliest appears to be in 1682; there is a complete Alphabetical Index to them kept irrespective of dates.

Commissions to examine, and the Depositions thereon.

Of these there is a great number, a large proportion of which seem not to have been opened further than was necessary to ascertain the title and date.

The Commissions and Depositions, written on parchment, are generally tied together, and annexed to the Commission are the Commissioner's and Clerk's oaths. The earliest that at present exists is dated in 1681; these I have had arranged in alphabetical order, and a complete Index made to their titles, irrespective of their dates.

Exhibits.

Under this head, I have included various documents, books, and other matters that have been used in Court, and deposited from time to time with the Registrar, and never returned to the parties to whom they belonged. They are not, correctly speaking "Records," as they are private property. In addition to the above, there are Rule Books, Hearing Books, and Petitions of the Equity Exchequer, of which, as there is only a portion in this collection, I shall treat in my Report of the Equity Exchequer Records at a future date. It would, I consider,

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only lead to confusion to report on the Records of that Court bit by bit, as we get portions of it into this office from the various offices to which, on the merging of that Court in the Court of Chancery in the year 1850, they were transferred, and which offices, as a rule, generally bestowed less attention on these Records than on those more peculiarly their own. In many instances, from the want of room, some of these Exchequer Records were only nominally transferred, and not actually.

Appendix No. 22.

Extract from the Report of J. J. Digges La Touche, Esq., Assistant Deputy Keeper, dated the 25th September, 1868, of Proceedings in the preparation for Transfer and Removal of the Records in the Affidavit Office, Chancery.

This collection was contained in two rooms, called Mr. Brady's room and the Affidavit Office room.

It consists entirely of Affidavits filed in Chancery suits from the year 1668 to 1848, and of Affidavits in Lunacy Matters up to the year 1786, and is in very perfect order and arrangement. It may be divided into three portions, viz., one from 1678 to 1799, another from 1799 to April, 1843, and a third from April, 1843 to 1848.

The first portion is arranged, under the initial letters of the suits in which the several Affidavits are filed, in chronological order, being tied in small bundles, containing each generally a year's Affidavits, and labelled with the initial letters and years.

The second portion is arranged, year by year, under initial letters, and is also tied in bundles, labelled with the month or months, year, and initial letter.

The third portion is bound in volumes, with an Alphabetical Index at the commencement of each.

There are 6,496 bundles of Affidavits, from 1668 to April, 1843, all which have been carefully dusted, and tied in 789 parcels, covered with brown paper, and labelled on the outside, the old labels and order being still preserved.

The Affidavits bound in volumes consist altogether of 181 books, and were so bound in accordance with a general order of Lord St. Leonards (then Sir E. Sugden), dated in 1843.

To these Affidavits there are no indices, unless a diurnal list, arranged under the letters of the alphabet, giving the name of the cause, the deponent, the date of swearing, the date of filing of each Affidavit, from 1836 to April, 1843, can be so called.

Arrangement in Record Treasury.

Affidavits from	A	1668	to	W	1711,	in Bay	1 N,	shelves 131 to 137.
„	„	W	1711	„	1843,	„	1 O,	„ 1 „ 13.
Affidavits bound		1843	„		1848,	„	1 O,	„ 15 and 16.

N.B.—The greater portion of the Affidavits of the Equity side of the Exchequer belong to this office, and will be treated of in a future report.

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Appendix No. 23.

Extract from the Report of Henry F. Berry, Esq., dated 11th December, 1868, of Proceedings in preparation for Transfer and Removal of Records in the Recognizance Office, Chancery.

These Records were contained in twelve presses, but no particular order had been observed in their arrangement; hence, in obedience to our instructions on the "Day Roll of Duties," "To enter in Transfer Book the original Recognizances in order of their numbers," we had the presses themselves numbered irregularly, so as to follow the sequence of the Recognizances. This proceeding, though running counter to the "Instructions for Transfer," was adopted at your own suggestion, and in this instance, proved of great utility, enabling us to arrange the Documents with greater ease.

The Records of the department consisted of the following, viz.:—

Original Recognizances,
Orders to Vacate,
Certified Copies of Recognizances,
Requisitions for Searches,
Recognizance Rolls,
Index Books,

and of each class I shall treat in the foregoing order.

Original Recognizances.

These were made up in yearly bundles, containing on an average 100 each, and were found to be in very fair condition, and in good order. In preparing them for transfer, we had, as a rule, three of the bundles tied up together, and then wrapped in brown paper, to protect them, putting on each parcel, so made up, a label, stating what it contained. After a slight calculation, I should say that there are very nearly 23,000 of these Recognizances now in the Treasury, any one of which can be found in a few moments by reference to the Transfer Book.

Orders to Vacate.

were found on the tops of the presses, made up also in bundles, but from exposure to dust in that open position, they were all more or less injured, the outer ones being torn and very often illegible; the earliest belongs to the year 1754, and their series extends in very regular order from that time to 1848. These we treated in the same manner as the Recognizances, and had them made up in brown paper, each parcel of which contains four or five bundles.

Certified Copies of Recognizances

are very few in number, being contained in four small parcels, and I can only account for their presence by supposing that they were ordered by parties who never called for them.

Requisitions for Searches

were found on the press-tops with the Orders to Vacate; they are simply small dockets on files, bearing the name of the party against whom the search is made, and some few particulars of the case necessary for the search, being in most cases signed by the person making the search.

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Recognizance Rolls.

These contain the enrolments of the original Recognizances lodged in the office, and like them, extend from the year 1691 to 1848; they are numbered from Roll 1, part 1, to Roll 33, part 4, there being in all ninety-one distinct Rolls. Many separate sheets, however, were found which had never been made up, and these principally belong to Rolls 22–26 inclusive, which would be from about 1800 to 1814. As an explanation of this, I find the following in the reply of Mr. Porter, Clerk of the Recognizances, to the Record Commissioners (Reports 1810–1815). "The same (*i.e.*, Recognizances) are enrolled, with the exception of an interval from 17th March, 1802, to 7th November, 1812, save such as were vacated within the said period, for the cause of which omission I cannot account, having only been in said office three months or thereabouts." From this it would seem that those Recognizances only were put upon the Roll which were vacated from time to time; as an additional explanation, I refer to the memorandum for 23rd October, 1868, in the Deputy Keeper's Diary. "At Recognizance Office, find considerable quantities of loose sheets of parchment, bearing enrolments, —some having vacates entered—some not. These irregularities appear to have arisen prior to and in the time of Mr. Walker's predecessor in the office; it seems that it had been the practice for some time during his charge of the office, not to enrol in the first instance, but on the coming in of a vacate order, to make out an enrolment *pro re nata*, and enter the vacate on it; that afterwards Mr. Porter proceeded a certain length in preparing to remedy this defect in the Rolls, by transcribing, for the purpose of being made up into a Roll, the omitted Recognizances but after some time gave up the attempt. It appears also that during some part of the same period, the practice had been to return the original Recognizances on entering Vacates, whence it has happened that hiatuses exist both in the bundles of original Recognizances and in the enrolments; I direct Mr. Tucker to make up these exceptional enrolments in bundles by themselves, intending to have them "gathered" and introduced into their proper Rolls after transfer."

I find that as yet Mr. Tucker has been unable to carry out these instructions, in consequence of his being obliged to direct the collation and arrangement of the unbound documents from the Chancery Registrars' Office, but as soon as that task is completed, he will proceed to make up and arrange the bundles of separate sheets. The Rolls in this office having been selected by you for trying experimentally a new mode of arrangement and preservation, it became necessary to mount them respectively on wooden axes or mandrels, prepared for that purpose. The insertion of their fittings necessitated the unrolling of each, and occupied Mr. Overend and myself, with two workmen, about three days; this enabled us to see what state all were in, and, as a rule, they are in good condition, especially the older ones, which are models of clear writing and careful making up. Some of the later ones seemed much torn and carelessly put together, though an exception must be made in the case of the most modern, from Roll 27 to Roll 33.

In the clearing and arranging the Records of the late Rolls Office some Recognizance Rolls were found; they are thirty in number, and include three of Henry VIII., with some of each of the kings and queens, his successors, down to the time of Charles I. From this it will be seen that our collection of Recognizance Rolls extends from the reign of Henry VIII. to the year 1848, with the exception of a gap between the time of Charles I., when those found in the Rolls Office ends, and the year 1691, when the series in the Recognizance Office begins; this gap, however, we may hope to see filled up.

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Index Books

include the following twenty volumes :—

Two Indexes to Rolls from 1691, which show the years to which each Roll belongs, and the numbers included on each Roll.

Four Cause Books, or books indexed merely with the titles of causes in which Recognizances were entered into, and showing also the Roll in which such title appears, with its sub-number.

Vol. 1 extends from 1691 to 1798.
„ 2 „ 1799 „ 1800.
„ 3 „ 1800 „ 1835.
„ 4 „ 1836 „ 1846.

Vol. 5, which includes the years 1846–1853, has been removed to the Record and Writ Office, where the Recognizances from 1848 to the present time are to be found.

Eight Name Books, in which the names of persons entering in Recognizances, are alphabetically indexed, together with the Roll and sub-number for each name.

Vol. 1 includes Rolls 1 to 10.
„ 2 „ „ 11 „ 14.
„ 3 „ years 1691–1786.
„ 4 „ „ 1786–1800.
„ 5 „ Rolls 22 to 23.
„ 6 „ „ 22 „ 26.
„ 7 „ years 1822–1842.
„ 8 is a duplicate of one of the preceding.

(In both Cause and Name Books the word "vacated" is written in the margin, beside the name or case, whenever a Recognizance has been vacated.)

Six Name and Cause Books, for the six years 1809–1814. These, as their title indicates, contain both Names and Causes, but as they cover such a very short period, they are almost practically useless.

With regard to those of the above volumes that have been placed in the Search Room, Mr. Hennessy, who considers them unsatisfactory for reference, has made the following memorandum :—

"The indexes to the Recognizance Rolls of Chancery deposited in the Search Room consist of eight volumes, viz. :—Three volumes of Cause Indexes, extending from 1691 to 1842 ; four volumes of Name Indexes, from 1691 to 1842, and one volume, containing a List of the Recognizance Rolls, chronologically arranged, *i.e.*, showing the number of Rolls corresponding to each year."

"The form in which these Indexes have been compiled is rather inconvenient. Thus, if it be necessary to consult a Recognizance, the Searcher must look for the name of A. B. in the Name Book, where he may find several similar names, with the numbers of the Rolls in which they appear attached to each. Then he must examine the Cause Index Books, in order to find a cause title corresponding to his cause, and to the number of the Roll in which the name occurs. Having satisfied himself on these points, he must then refer to the Chronological List of Rolls, to ascertain the year in which the Recognizance was entered into. Although, as will have been observed, the working of these Indexes involves some loss of time, it would be very desirable nevertheless that they were brought down to the year 1848, pending the compilation of a more perfect and comprehensive system."

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Mr. Overend and I completed the preparatory work in this office on October 24th, and the following day was spent in transferring its Records to the Treasnry here, where they were temporarily placed in Bay 1 Q. The necessary preparations in Bay 3 Q, which is to be their final destination, are now almost complete, and all the Recognizance Rolls mentioned in this Report have been placed in the new fittings, with the exception of the bundles that remain to be made up.

In the inner room are four presses, filled with documents belonging to the Conrt of Admiralty. These have been tied up, labelled, and entered in the Transfer Book, but not yet removed.

Appendix No. 24.

Extract from Report of John O. Overend, Esq., dated October, 1868, of Proceedings in preparation for Transfer and Removal of Records of Crown and Hanaper Office, Chancery.

The collection occupied two rooms—No. 1, containing twenty-six, and No. 2, seventeen presses.

The Records were generally in a dry and sound condition, but in want of arrangement, Presses 3 and 4 contained some Writs and Inquisitions, the earliest being of James I. (1603). These were tied in bundles without regard to order.

I will now proceed to give a general list of the documents contained in both rooms, all of which I have had dusted, retied, and arranged when possible, in alphabetical and chronological order, so as to be easy of reference.

1. Writs of Election and Returns of Members of Parliament. These were arranged in counties during Anne's reign. This plan continued till the year 1800. From that period to the present they were placed under separate heads, viz. :—General Elections and Bye Elections.

2. Writs and Returns electing Temporal Peers from the time of tho Union (1801). There was also a book containing a list of votes recorded by Peers since 1800, which has been retained by Clerk of Crown and Hanaper.

3. Commissions of Lunacy, Idiocy, &c., and Returns. These commenco in Qneen Anne's reign. A few of the Commissions in George II. and III.'s reign, as well as an Index, have also been retained by the Clerk of the Crown and Hanaper for the present requirements of his office.

4. Writs of Ad qnod Damnum. These writs anthorize the issue of patents granting fairs and markets throughout Ireland. There is no index. The earlier portion were placed on files, but from tho reign of George I. they were classed in reigns.

5. Commissions of Inquiry, and Inquisitions therennder. There aro only a few of these, the earliest bearing date 1740.

6. Writs to elect Coroners, and Returns. These were in a very imperfect condition, there being often no return attached, and date from 1714.

7. Significavit and Warrants for Writs of Excommunicate Capiendo from James I. (1603). These were in very good order, but not indexed.

8. Apostles and Warrants for Commissions of Delegates from George I. (1714). These I found in good condition, but unindexed, as they are never referred to after commission passes the Great Seal.

9. Dedimuses to swear in Justices of the Peace, and a number of Six-Clerk dockets, mixed together in various presses, and which, being of no use and devoid of interest, I have had placed in sacks.

10. A number of Fiants in fair condition.

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11. Proclamations from Queen Anne's reign, and Warrants for sealing them.
12. A few Commissions of Valuation.
13. Warrants for Pardons.
14. Commissions to examine Witnesses before Lords Deputy and Council.
15. Writs of Ease.
16. Sheriffs' Patents. These have ceased to exist since the year 1838.
17. Warrants for superseding Magistrates.
18. Warrants of Appointment to the office of Custos Rotulorum.
19. Warrants appointing Masters Extraordinary.
20. Commissions of Array.
21. Commissions of Perambulation relating to ecclesiastical matters.
22. Commissions of Assize and Association.
23. Writs of Summons to Parliament (Irish).
24. Rolls of Allegiance from William and Mary's reign.
25. Roll of Oaths of Roman Catholic and Assistant Barristers, in good chronological order.
26. Writs of Scire Facias.

There were also a number of Special Commissions of Oyer and Terminer, Patents granting leave of absence to Lords Lieutenant and Lord Chancellors, Commissions of the Peace, &c., which the Clerk of the Crown and Hanaper has retained, supposing them to be the private property of the parties to whom they were directed.

All the aforesaid Records have been deposited in Bay 1 Q, occupying from Shelf 56 to 112, with the exception of the documents put in sacks, which are placed in Bay L press-tops, from No. 1 to 15.

Appendix No. 25.

Warrant for Receipt and Charge of Records in the Crown Office of the Court of Queen's Bench.

To Samuel Ferguson, esq., Q.C., LL.D., Deputy Keeper of the Public Records in Ireland:—

Pursuant to the powers and authorities given to the Master of the Rolls in Ireland, by the statute made and passed in the Parliament held in the thirtieth and thirty-first years of the Reign of Her present Majesty, Queen Victoria, entitled "The Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867," I, the Right Honorable John Edward Walsh, Master of the Rolls in Ireland, do hereby, with the approbation of the Right Honorable Abraham Brewster, Lord High Chancellor of Ireland (testified by his countersigning these presents), appoint you, Samuel Ferguson, esq., to attend the Chief Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench, and in my name to receive and take charge of all Rolls, Records, Writs, Books, Proceedings, Decrees, Bills, Warrants, Accounts, Papers, and Documents whatsoever, of a public nature, of the age of twenty years and upwards from the making thereof, belonging to Her Majesty, in Her said Court, of which a specification or description is contained in the Schedule hereunto annexed; and for so doing this shall be your sufficient Warrant. Given under my hand, this 22nd day of August, 1868,

(Signed), John E. Walsh, *M.R.*

Approved and countersigned by me,

(Signed), A. Brewster, *C.*

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Schedule to which the above Warrant refers.

In the offices of the Clerk of the Crown of the Court of Queen's Bench in Ireland, the Enrolments of Indictments, Presentments, Convictions, Mandamus Writs, Writs of Error, Attachments, Habeas Corpus, Quo Warranto, Courts Martial proceedings, and the Records of Courts of Commission of Oyer and Terminer for County and County of the City of Dublin, from 1729 to 1794, and Affidavits, and all other Records, Books, Papers, and public Documents, prior in date to the year 1848, of the said Court of Queen's Bench in Ireland, now contained in the Offices of the Clerk of the Crown of the said Queen's Bench, and all Indices, Calendars, or Repertories thereof, wheresoever the same may be.

Appendix No. 26.

Extract from the Report of Mr. Richard Tucker, dated 3rd February, 1869, of operations in sorting and re-arranging Collection from Offices of Registrars of Court of Chancery.

Having received instructions from Mr. La Touche in the month of September last, I proceeded with the arranging and classifying of the papers transferred from the Chancery Registrars' Office. I commenced with the Petitions. This collection was made up in small bundles, written on a small-size foolscap paper up to about the year 1800, and from that date up to 1843 they were generally written on post size. These I found were folded up briefwise; I caused them to be opened out in the flat, pressed, and made up in their respective letters and years, into bundles of about five inches in thickness, to suit portfolios provided for their reception. In the course of my proceeding with this collection, I met with a great impediment, inasmuch as I found in the course of their removal from the Chancery Registrars' Office, some of their earliest dates were in many instances in the shelves of various presses quite full, and in a very great state of confusion, letters and years indiscriminately mixed up together without any regard to order, and a great portion of them so much decayed by damp and mildew that I found it almost impossible to handle them, and in many cases the indorsement of title and dates had entirely disappeared. These by careful examination of the interior portion left of them, I was partly able to arrange satisfactorily, by arranging them in their respective letters and years, and interpolating them into the bundles already made up. I found with the above collection Writs of Sequestration, which I caused to be separated and placed with their own class. From the year 1677, which occurs in the letter A, down to the year 1843, there amounts in all 352 portfolios, containing about 300 petitions each, making as near as could be ascertained at a rough calculation, 105,600 Petitions.

On completing the above collection, I next proceeded with the Chancery Reports: these were also transferred from the Chancery Registrars' Office, and were treated in the same manner as the Petitions, but I found them much more difficult to deal with, as they were written on all sizes of paper from foolscap to royal, and contained many documents of various kinds. It seemed as if under the head of Reports had been kept several classes of Records, and more especially the Reports prior to the year 1831; and although from that date there was a separate class for the Accounts, yet I found many Accounts amongst the Reports

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later than 1831. I give you here a list of the various Documents I found amongst and mixed up with the Reports:—

Petitions.	Submissions.
Receivers' Accounts.	Injunctions.
Guardians' Accounts.	Sequestrations.
Certificates.	Affidavits.
Awards.	Decrees.
Releases.	Cases for opinion of Court.

Each class of these I kept by themselves and had arranged according to their years and letters. The above mentioned collection, under the head of Chancery Reports, the earliest date of which begins also in the year 1677, which occurs in the letter A, down to the year 1843, I caused to be carefully sorted, taking all the other papers in the foregoing list from amongst them, and had them tied up in bundles of about 300 in each, and pressed to about five inches in thickness to suit portfolios in progress of making for their reception. These amount, for reports alone, to 184 bundles, which, according to a rough calculation, contain 55,200 Chancery Reports unbound.

I next commenced the Receivers' Accounts, treating them in the same manner as the Petitions and Reports. The collection already in the Treasury commenced in the year 1831, as appears by the Transfer Book, and ended in the year 1834; and I was enabled to fill up many of the series of gaps which occurred in it by interpolating the accounts for those years found amongst the Reports. The earliest date I find in the remaining mass of Receivers' Accounts is in the year 1744, which occurs in the letter C, and continues down to the year 1843, amounting in all to 135 bundles, averaging about 250 in each bundle. These were also pressed to suit portfolios in progress, making about 33,750 Receivers' Accounts. I next proceeded with the Guardians' Accounts, which I found with the Receivers' Accounts and Reports. These I thought it advisable to separate from the Receivers', with the view of being enabled to find them with greater facility. This collection I also treated in the same manner as the former papers; they are tied up in bundles of about 250 in each, and the same thickness as the Receivers'. There is in all 41 bundles, the earliest date of which begins in the year 1731, and occurs in the letter N. These are also made up to suit portfolios in progress of making, and contain about 10,250 Guardians' Accounts.

The Certificates, which I also found amongst the Receivers' Accounts and Reports, were treated in a similar manner as the former mentioned papers. In this collection there is to be found Masters' Certificates for sales, also Accountant-General's Certificates, beginning in the year 1723, and continuing up to 1843. They amount in all to 34 bundles, and are made up of about 300 in each; these are also ready for their portfolios.

I come now to the Consents. These also came from the Chancery Registrars' Office, and purported to be arranged from the year 1000 down to 1843, under the head of Consents; but, on treating them in a similar manner as the other papers, I found mixed up with them several other classes of papers, viz., Petitions, Submissions, Awards, Releases, Returns, and Rolls Certificates. The latter I thought it advisable to leave with the Consents; the other papers found amongst them I caused to be separated and classed by themselves, each in their own letters and years. The Consents found amongst the Reports I interpolated into their proper places. This collection contains forty-nine bundles, with about 300 in each, the earliest date of which is 1713, and occurs

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in the letter I. These are also ready for their portfolios, and comprise about 14,700 Consents and Rolls Certificates. The Awards, Releases, and Submissions I caused to be made up in bundles, selecting them and placing them in their letters and years, as above mentioned. This collection contains in all twenty-two bundles, which are ready for portfolios. In arranging this enormous mass of papers I found a great many gaps, whole years in some cases being wanting; and in the Petitions, in one instance, in the letter N, from the year 1800 to 1808, both inclusive, are missing. In the event of their turning up, I have made provision for them as regards space. In many instances of papers found in the different classes of documents not in their proper places, I had to contend with great difficulties in having to re-open the bundles, already made up, and interpolating those papers. The frequent occurrence of finding different papers in each collection as I proceeded caused me a great delay, and I had to recommence the formation of the bundles again and again. I beg you will take into consideration that the persons I had employed to assist me in carrying out this work had never had any experience in anything of the kind before; and I have no doubt that, from time to time, there will turn up some mistakes, but I apprehend of so trifling a nature as I can easily remedy.

Appendix No. 27.

To the Right Honorable the Master of the Rolls.—The First Report of Sir John Bernard Burke, Ulster, Keeper of the State Papers in the Record Tower, Dublin Castle, dated 1st February, 1869.

I commence this my First Report from the date of the constitution of my present office of Keeper of the State Papers in the Record Tower, under the "Public Record (Ireland) Act, 1867."

The office so constituted comprises myself, as Keeper of the State Papers, and my two Clerks, Mr. George F. Barry and Mr. John Joseph Maginn.

At the date of my appointment under this Act, there were in my custody, as Keeper of the Records in the Record Tower, four distinct departments, viz.:—

I. The Bermingham Tower Record Room, being the depository of the Plea, Pipe, and other Rolls.

II. The Parliamentary Record Office, being the depository of the Records, Books, and Papers of the Irish Parliament.

III. The Record Commission Department, being the depository of the Books, Papers, and Proceedings of the Record Commission of 1810.

IV. The State Paper Department, being the depository of the Books, Papers, and Records of the Chief Secretary's Office and the Council Office.

Under the requirements of the "Public Records Act" my duties are to be threefold:—

1. To prepare finally, for transfer to the new Public Record Office, the contents of the three first named depositories, viz.:—The Bermingham Tower Record Room, the Parliamentary Record Office, and the Record Commission Department.

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2. To receive the current papers and books of the Chief Secretary's and Council offices, and the accumulated arrears.
3. To arrange, classify, and index the Records in the State Paper Department for their gradual removal to the Public Record Building, subject to the reservation of the Act requiring that such Records and papers so to be transferred shall be of an age of fifty years from the making thereof.

1. With reference to the preparation for transfer to the Public Record Office of the contents of the three departments above specified, viz., the Bermingham Tower Record Room Department, the Parliamentary Record Room Department, and the Record Commission Department:—

The first two of these depositories I have now in such a prepared state that they can at any moment he lahelled and in all respects rendered fit for transfer to the Public Record Office.

The third depository—the Record Commission collection—I have had arranged, papered, endorsed, lahelled, numbered, adjusted to the spaces in the Record Treasury, and removed to the Public Record Office.

2. With reference to the removal from the Chief Secretary's Office to the Record Tower of the current State Papers, I have received a very considerable number of documents, amounting to more than 100,000, dating from the year 1821 to the year 1840, and also seventy MS. volumes of Country Letter Books, Treasury Minute Books, Applications to the Treasury, &c., &c. I have had these newly transferred documents partially arranged (sufficiently for temporary reference) and I have placed each hundle or parcel, carefully covered, endorsed, and numbered, in an appropriate press. As the current Office Indexes, attached to this collection do not include all the current documents, it has become necessary, for actual present use, to supply the omission; in furtherance of this I have caused an Index to be commenced of the omitted papers, beginning with the years 1839 and 1840. Eventually all the documents from the Chief Secretary's Office will be arranged, classified, and indexed for transfer.

3. With reference to the arrangement, classification, and indexing of the State Papers, I have commenced with the most ancient records of this department, for the purpose of having, in a proper state for transfer, the documents of the first twenty years. I shall thus be enahled, at an early period, to certify to the Lord Lieutenant and the Master of the Rolls, that the first portion of the State Papers is in a fit condition to be removed, in conformity with the Act.

The Church Miscellaneous Papers, heing the letters, communications, and other documents connected with the Irish Church from the year 1662 to the year 1795, I have arranged, numhered, classified, and placed in cartons, and I have made a Calendar of the whole series; the Index to it is in a state of preparation.

The British Departmental Correspondence, heing the communications and letters from the Official Departments in England to the Irish Government, heginning in 1683, and ending in 1758, I have arranged and placed, properly lahelled, in cartons; a Calendar is in progress, and during the past year has heen completed up to the end of 1718.

The Irish Departmental Correspondence, being the communications and letters from the Irish Government to the Official Departments in England, from 1685 to 1797, I have also arranged and placed in cartons.

The Irish Civil Miscellaneous Correspondence, heing the communications and letters to the Government in Ireland from the year 1685 to the year 1796, have also heen arranged in like manner and placed in cartons.

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The collection of Law Reports and other papers connected therewith, from the year 1697 to 1793, has been similarly arranged and placed in cartons.

The series of Abstracts of Cash from the Revenue, Customs, Excise, and Treasury, from the year 1724 to 1810, inclusive, has been placed in tin boxes and calendared.

A collection of miscellaneous Accounts, part of the foregoing series (not included in the official Index), have also been calendared and placed in a tin box.

The mass of Church Papers, concerning the unions, divisions, and other modifications of parishes and glebes, and removals of sites of churches, in the various dioceses, commencing in 1697 and ending in 1814, have been arranged and placed in cartons; and of these documents I have prepared a Calendar.

(Signed), J. BERNARD BURKE, *Ulster.*

Record Tower, Dublin Castle.

APPENDIX No. 28.

SPECIMEN PAGE from CALENDAR of DISENTAILING DEED ROLL, No. 17, 1840.

24th December, 1839. Alexander Allen, of Ballyobikin, county Down, first part; Alexander Allen, the younger, his son, of the same place, second part; and James Allen, of Nuns' Quarter, county Down, the trustee, third part. Premises mentioned:—Ballyobeken, otherwise Ballyobikin, otherwise Ballydrumronnan, in the parish of St. Andrews; Ballyhayes, in the parish of Donaghadee; Ballyverter, in the parish of Donaghadee, called the Lamb Park and the Long Loan Park; all in the barony of Ards, and county Down. No. 836. Co. Down.

Enrolled 2nd January, 1840.

14th December, 1839. The Right Honorable Nathaniel, Earl of Leitrim, of Killadoon, county Kildare, and the Honorable William Sydney Clements, commonly called Lord Viscount Clements, of Lough Rynn, co. Leitrim, his eldest son, first part; the Poor Law Commissioners, second part. Premises mentioned:—Brukard's Hill, in the parish of Clonilare, Barony of Dromahair, Co. Leitrim. No. 837. Co. Leitrim.

Enrolled 3rd January, 1840.

28th December, 1839. Henry William Knox, of Netley Park, co. Mayo, first part; Edmond John Nolan, of Inns-quay, City of Dublin, solicitor, second part. Premises mentioned:—Rathnamagh, Letterbrick, Ballincloy, Shraghlaghy, Rathnamagh, and Cooneal, all in the barony of Tyrawley, co. Mayo. No. 838. Co. Mayo.

Enrolled 6th January, 1840.

APPENDIX No. 29.

LETTER from SECRETARY of PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON, relative to IRISH STATE PAPERS from PHILADELPHIA.

(Copy.)

4th September, 1868.

SIR,—With reference to a letter from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to the Master of the Rolls, dated 14th November, 1867 (copy enclosed), I am directed to inform you that the five volumes of Irish State Papers therein mentioned have this day been transmitted

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to your office by rail. You will perceive that their Lordships' sanction, on the recommendation of Lord Romilly, the volumes heing delivered to the Public Record Office in Duhlin, in order that they may be preserved in the archives of the country to the history of which they more especially relate.

Further particulars explanatory of the circumstances under which these volumes were restored to the British Government by the Library Company of Philadelphia will he found in the letter of the Master of the Rolls to the Treasury, dated 4th November, 1867 (copy enclosed), and in the Twenty-ninth printed Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, dated 25th February, 1868, pp. xiv.–xviii. I also transmit the covers in which four of the volumes were hound when received in England. The fifth volume has had its hinding repaired, and is in its former cover.

With reference to my letter of the 28th January, transmitting certain volumes of Transcripts of Carte Papers in the Bodleian Library (as far as Vol. 24 [1]), I also send with the volumes from Philadelphia a continuation of the Carte Transcripts, viz., Vols. 24 (2), 25 (1 and 2), 26 (1 and 2), and 27 (1 and 2), to he placed with the preceding volumes.

I remain, sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) JOHN EDWARDS, Secretary.

J. T. Gilhert, esq., Secretary,
Public Record Office of Ireland.

APPENDIX No. 30.

LETTER from SECRETARY of PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON, relative to TRANSCRIPTS of CARTE PAPERS.

(Copy.)

28th January, 1868.

SIR,—In the year 1863, by desire of the Treasury, an examination of the Carte Papers in the Bodleian Library at Oxford was made, and a Report thereon printed, a copy of which I forward to you this day by the book post.

The formation of a Calendar of these papers not heing considered expedient, the Treasury determined to have duplicate copies made of such Irish official documents as are among them—one copy to be placed in the Puhlic Record Office, London, for the use of the public, and the other copy in such place in Duhlin as might he afterwards selected.

These copies, as far as Vol. 24 (1), have heen made, and the Treasury (25th January) have authorized the Master of the Rolls to transmit one set to the Puhlic Record Office, Dublin.

I have, therefore, heen directed to transmit one set of the Transcripts to you, and have accordingly sent them this day hy the London and North-Western Railway.

I remain, sir, your ohedient servant,

(Signed,) JOHN EDWARDS.

Samuel Ferguson, esq., Deputy Keeper
of the Public Records of Ireland.

Additional particulars respecting the Carte Transcripts will be found in the twenty-fifth, twenty-seventh, and twenty-eighth printed Reports of the Depnty Keeper of the Public Records.

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Appendix No. 31.

Printed Correspondence relative to Irish State Papers from Philadelphia, issued with notification of Public Record Office being accessible to Literary Inquirers.

Public Record Office of Ireland.

Dublin, September 17, 1868.

The five volumes of "Irish State Papers" referred to in the annexed correspondence, and also copies of the "Carte Papers" from the originals at Oxford, so far as yet transcribed, have been received at the Public Record Office, Dublin, where they are now accessible, under the regulations of the Department.

London, November 4, 1867.

Sir,—I have had occasion to address several letters to you relative to the five volumes of Irish State Papers which have been liberally presented to the British Government by the "Library Company of Philadelphia," and forwarded to me by the direction of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury. I think the time has now arrived for me to give their lordships a full account of those volumes, and of the steps I have taken respecting them. I must, however, first briefly recapitulate the circumstances which led to the spirited and generous surrender of these books on the part of the Library Company.

Mr. Hepworth Dixon, during his late tour in America, visited the Library of Philadelphia, and saw there five volumes of Irish State Papers which had been presented to that library in 1799. Mr. Dixon suggested to the Librarian that it would be a graceful act on the part of the authorities of the Library if they were to restore to the British Government the volumes in question, as they were evidently a part of the national archives of Great Britain.

The directors of the Library Company immediately and unanimously agreed "that there was an eminent propriety in the manuscripts being restored to the British Government as a portion of their public archives;" and a communication to that effect was made to me through the medium of Mr. Hepworth Dixon.

I immediately informed the Treasury of Mr. Hepworth Dixon's intimation, forwarding at the same time a letter on the subject from Mr. Lloyd Smith, the Librarian of Philadelphia; and I suggested that the Lords of the Treasury should make a suitable acknowledgment to the Library Company, and accompany their letter with a copy of all the Government works published by their authority under my direction, not as a recompense, but as a testimony of their high appreciation of a gift so honourably and disinterestedly made.

The Lords of the Treasury, by their Minute 10th January, 1867, having gratefully accepted the present of the Philadelphia Library Company, the five volumes in question were forwarded to England through our Minister at Washington, and duly received by me on the 26th April, 1867.

On that day I informed you of the safe arrival of these MSS., and I ventured to suggest to their lordships that it would be a courteous and munificent act on their part if they would direct me to deliver these volumes to the care of the Public Record Office in Dublin, as they relate more especially to the history of Ireland, and ought to be

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preserved in the archives there. It appeared to me that by such a procedure their lordships would follow the liberal example already set by the Philadelphia Library Company, and restitution of these volumes would be made to the country to which they properly belong.

In the full persuasion that their lordships would comply with my suggestion, I gave orders to have four of the volumes copied *verbatim et literatim*, properly authenticated, and placed for general use in the Search-room of the Public Record Office. I have not deemed it necessary to have the fifth volume (the "Memoirs of the Marquess of Clanricarde") transcribed, as it has been already printed.

As these transcripts are now finished, and are ready for binding, I am prepared to give up the originals to their lordships whenever they call upon me to do so, in order that they may dispose of them in the way they may consider most beneficial to the public service.

Before they are sent away, I think they ought to be strongly bound, and a suitable inscription placed upon the volumes, commemorative of the circumstances under which they are restored to the British nation.

I ought, perhaps, to state in conclusion, that in conformity with my recommendation, a complete set of the Chronicles and Memorials of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the Calendars of State Papers, as well as of the *fac-similes* in photozincography of Domesday Book, and the National MS. had been sent to the Philadelphia Library Company by the Lords of the Treasury, as a grateful acknowledgment of the feelings their lordships entertain of the honourable and disinterested spirit which prompted the gift.

The directors of the Library have not failed to return thanks through me to Her Majesty's Government, for what they term "their munificent gift."

On the following pages I have furnished their lordships with a brief account of each of the five volumes in question, and have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

ROMILLY.

G. A. Hamilton, esq., &c., &c.

ACCOUNT of the CONTENTS of VOLUMES received from PHILADELPHIA.

I.

The documents contained in the volume lettered "Original Correspondence, Irish Government, I. 1603–1615," consist for the most part of letters and copies of letters from the Lords of the Council in England to the Lord Deputy, or the Lord Deputy and Council in Ireland. The dates of these documents range from 1592 to $160\frac{2}{10}$. They refer, in general, to petitions from individuals, or corporate bodies, to the King or the Council. In some few cases copies of the petitions are enclosed.

It is stated in indorsements on many of the letters, that they have been enrolled either in the Council Books, in the Office of Musters, in that of the Chief Remembrancer of the Exchequer, in the King's Bench in Ireland, or on the Rolls of the Chancery of Ireland. There are five of the latter class, four of which are printed in the "Patent and Close Rolls, Chancery, Ireland," Vol. III., and one in the "Calendar of the Irish Patent Rolls."

The volume exhibits marks of mutilation, and in two instances it is evident that a whole letter has been removed.

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With regard to the subjects treated of, it would be almost impossible to describe them under a moderate number of heads. Among matters of public interest, however, may he specified: the payment and victualling of the army; papers relating to arms and munitions, military appointments, forts and fortifications; to the currency; to the settlement of customs; to the treatment of the fugitive Earls; to the punishment of priests, and restraint of the Popish religion; to the establishment of a learned ministry in Ireland, and the reformation of the clergy; to the apprehension and punishment of pirates; to fines for recusancy, &c.

There is a very interesting paper, entitled "Motives and Reasons to induce the City of London to undertake plantacõn in the North of Ireland;" and another, of earlier date, "Memorialls for Reformacõn of the Clergie." The letters on petitions from individuals are very numerous.

II.

The documents in the volume lettered "MSS. Letters, K. James I., 1603 to 1615," consist of royal letters; warrants under the sign manual, and copies of warrants; granting lands, rents, and annuities, in Ireland, to various persons, either for services, or as personal favours; to the Church and military estahlishments; together with charges and commissions in several districts of the same country; to which are added, in three instances, lists of the royal army there.

They range from 1603 to 1612.

The bulk of the letters concerns the interests of individuals; but towards the close of the volume, the matters of the Church; the reduction of the army; the improvement of the customs, and the summoning of Parliament, form the principal points touched upon in a despatch to Sir Arthur Chichester, the Deputy in Ireland, in the year 1611.

More than half of the documents bear the indorsement that they are enrolled in the Rolls of the Chancery in Ireland; and of the first twenty so indorsed, all have heen indentified with entries in the printed, but unpuhlished, volume of the "Patent and Close Rolls, Chancery, Ireland."

III.

The documents contained in the volume of Irish State Papers, lettered "MSS. Orig. Correspondence, Irish Government, 1603–1615, II.," commence on the 10th of March, 1610, and come down to Decemher 24, 1615. They consist for the most part of original letters, addressed by the Lords of the Council in England to the Lord Deputy of Ireland and the other members of the Council there. Besides these original official documents, there are various letters, petitions, and copies of petitions and memoranda, chiefly from private individuals, forwarded by the Lords of the Council as "enclosures" to the Lord Deputy of Ireland. This correspondence, though of a somewhat varied character, has reference, more or less directly, to the "Plantation of Ulster;" and it furnishes a considerable amount of information as to the means by which that design was carried into effect, the conditions under which the "undertakers," "the distrihutors of the land," the settlement of the Londoners in Coleraine and the Derry, &c.; but perhaps the most interesting of these documents, numbered "64," consists of a series of questions addressed hy the Lord Deputy to the Lords of the Council in England, with the answers of the latter in parallel columns—the answers of which are full and minute, and evince the deep interest

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which the Lords of the Council and the King himself took in the success of this enterprise. It also enables the reader to see at a glance the machinery that was put into operation for conducting the work of the "plantation."

Other papers relate to piracy, to the cutting and exportation of "the King's timber," the making of pipe-staves, &c., prohibited by an Order in Council. Others, again, relate to Church matters, "overtures for the advancement of true religion," the removal of recusants from their offices, &c. It appears from these documents that in the diocese of Waterford and Lismore, the cathedral church, parish churches, and the dwellings for the clergy were utterly dilapidated and untenantable; "the clergy do not reside—and if they did, there is no convenience of furniture for the performance of divine service." No less curious are the papers relating to "a certain scandalous act attempted" by the Bishop of Down, who is summoned to appear before the Privy Council in England to clear himself, if (as he protests) he can, of the crime laid to his charge, and the "dishonour which he has brought upon the Church." These documents are indorsed for the most part by the Lord Deputy, Sir Arthur Chichester. The volume appears to have been mutilated in several places; no less than ten letters have evidently been torn out. In some few instances signatures also have been removed. In other respects the volume is throughout in fair condition.

IV.

The documents contained in the volume lettered "MSS. Letters of K. James I., 1603–1615, II.," range from the year 1609 to the year 1615; or, more strictly, from 1612 to 1615, as there are only two documents for 1609 and 1610, and none for 1611. In all, there are about 150, while each of the other three volumes contains about 250.

At the beginning there is a brief calendar of the letters contained in the volume, but it is mutilated and imperfect.

These documents are similar to those in the preceding volume. They consist almost entirely of letters and warrants from King James I. to Sir Arthur Chichester, Lord Deputy in Ireland, concerning grants of escheated lands in Ulster to certain "undertakers," the plantation of that province, appointments to various Irish offices, the allowance of annuities, pensions, and rewards, commercial matters, the accusations made against the Lord Deputy, the dissensions in the House of Commons in Ireland, and many other matters of historical importance.

Most of them contain two indorsements: (1), one in Sir Arthur Chichester's own hand, indicating the date of the letter, its nature, and the time of its receipt by himself; (2), the other in the ordinary hand of the Patent and Close Rolls, to the effect that the warrant or letter was enrolled by James Newman, clerk to the Master of the Rolls, on the Rolls of the Chancery of Ireland.

V.

The fifth volume received from Philadelphia is the Diary of the Marquess of Clanricarde, which has been printed.

Treasury Chambers, November 14, 1867.

My Lord,—I have laid before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury your lordship's letter of the 4th instant, further on the subject of the five volumes of Irish State Papers, presented to the British Government by the Library Company of Philadelphia, and submitting a short account of the contents of each of these volumes.

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I am desired by their lordships to state that they approve of the recommendations made by your lordship with regard to these volumes —namely, that they should he strongly bound, and that a suitahle inscription should he placed upon them commemorative of the circumstances under which they were restored to the British nation. When this shall have been done, my lords further sanction the volumes heing delivered to the care of the Puhlic Record Office in Dublin, in order that they may be preserved in the archives of the country to the history of which they more especially relate.

I am, my lord,

Your ohedient servant,

GEORGE WARD HUNT.

The Right Hon. the Master of the Rolls.

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